

Annual Assembly Reports

**First Mennonite Church, CO
and Virtual
Sat, July 30, 2022**



Table of Contents

Moderator Report	<u>Pages 3-4</u>
Conference Minister Report	<u>Pages 5-6</u>
Financial Report	<u>Pages 7-8</u>
Budget Documents	Pages 9-12
 Conference Committees Reports	
Dialogue Resource Team (DRT)	<u>Page 13</u>
Ministerial Council (MC)	<u>Page 14</u>
 Passion Ministries Reports	
Casa de Paz	Page 15
Frontier Village Foundation	<u>Page 16</u>
MVS Alamosa	<u>Page 17</u>
Prayerstream	<u>Page 18</u>
RAWtools	<u>Page 19</u>
TiLT	<u>Page 20</u>

Moderator Report

Dreaming about the Future

It was right around the start of November last year. Before a DAAM gathering, Amy Zimbelman and I decided to gather at Starbucks. It had been almost a year since Amy started in her position as conference minister. After a year of listening, supporting, learning, and navigating our conference through some really turbulent times, it was clear to me that Amy was desiring to turn her attention towards the future of our conference, towards what might be next for MSMC.

So, we gathered, and we decided to dream big. I mean really, really big. If money wasn't an issue, what are our dreams for MSMC? If you know Amy, you know she just oozes creativity. She is always exploring new ways for our conference to expand our capacities, be more relevant and help one another and our world. Together, we came up with a few good ideas and many, many more bad ones. As we kept talking and brainstorming, we kept circling around to the same few ideas, over and over again. I think we reached a fairly strong consensus about our hopes for the conference. However, I'm the one that always brings up money. That is the unfortunate job of being moderator. How are we going to find the resources, the people, the finances to make these dreams come to fruition? We walked away from that meeting hopeful but with no way to fund these ideas.

The very next day the conference received news that we were receiving an extremely generous and an extremely unexpected estate gift. It just felt like one of those God moments where you could sense the Holy Spirit at work.

You will hear more about these dreams at the annual assembly. Since the start of the year, the leadership board has been hard at work discussing the future of our conference and we are really looking forward to getting feedback from the delegates during the assembly about these dreams. It should be a fun, energizing time!

The Leadership Board underwent a major turnover this year with three new individuals joining the board. I'm so thankful for the gifts and wisdom which Linda Mawhorter and Wilmer Villacorta bring. I'm also thankful for Zach Martinez's heart and energy for the conference. Zach's time on the board will be ending at the end of December. Zach has a real passion for organization and bylaws, which is a rare gift which we have appreciated very much. We are going to miss Zach's presence on the board next year. Unfortunately, Thao Pao had to resign from the Leadership Board due to family circumstances. The Leadership Board is working with the Hmong congregation to find a replacement that will finish out Pao's term.

This year the Leadership Board has been working hard alongside the Ministerial Council to craft a Ministerial Ethics Covenant for all credentialed leaders in the conference. We look forward to bringing this to the delegates in July in Denver. We also have been working on implementing the Future Anabaptist Leaders Program which was approved at last year's assembly. We had hoped to support our first intern this summer. Unfortunately, it did not work out. Who knew everyone got a dog during the pandemic and most seminary students pushed for placements closer to home this year? We do, however, have an applicant for the 2022-2023 yearlong season and hope to welcome that person to the program. We are very dedicated to this program, and we believe the future of our conference and the Mennonite Church, in general, is tied to supporting young leaders as they explore callings towards ministry.

What a joy it is to serve as MSMC's conference moderator. It is hard to believe that it has already been two years. I'm hopeful that I'll have the chance to serve in this role for another two years. Every month, I meet with the other conference moderators throughout the denomination. I hear of all that is happening elsewhere in the larger denomination, some good, most bad. Each month, I'm so thankful to be serving as a pastor of a church in Mountain States Mennonite Conference. We are one of the most theologically diverse while also the most hospitable conferences out there. We support one another and our conference in so many ways. Whenever we gather, we come together with joy and excitement. We keep

taking risks and are gracious to one another when we fail. It's an honor to serve this conference as moderator.

Lastly, I must thank our staff. As a conference we are blessed to have not only Amy Zimbelman as our conference minister, but also Rita Balzer as our bookkeeper and Jen Dudenhefer as our conference administrator. I can't imagine a better team working on behalf of this conference. Every one of them goes way over and above because they love our conference - the churches, the passion ministries, the programs we provide. I want to give a special thanks to Amy for her leadership, for the joy she brings to work every day, the care she has for all our pastors, passion ministry and church leaders. Thanks for all that you do to support and grow our ministry as a conference.

I can't wait to see many friends at Annual Assembly in July and also to make some new ones too. Thanks again for the opportunity to serve in this role. Mountain States Mennonite Conference is special; I'm always glad to be part of it.

Wild peace,

Ryan Koch, Conference Moderator

Conference Minister Report

July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022

Our conference is doing its rhizome thing—we are seeds growing horizontally under the surface, then springing up into new life . . . much like a mustard seed and its corresponding pesky mustard weed. It's been an amazing blessing for me to be a part of this ecosystem as we grow together.

Some of our congregations are actively growing numerically, while others are working to figure out what the pandemic dip in numbers means for them long-term. Our churches' engagement in their communities is on the rise, including welcoming immigrants and refugees, protesting nuclear war, planting trees with Ukrainian and Russian neighbors, providing rent and utility assistance for housing insecure folks, etc. etc.

This last year the Leadership Board and I chose to focus on cultivating communities of respect and care. This has looked like developing and offering a virtual misconduct prevention and response training for congregational chairs, working with a Think Tank to revisit our policies (the Ministerial Covenant for delegate approval came out of that), and inviting Rev. Dr. Susannah Larry to be our Faith & Life Forum speaker on sexualized violence in the Bible. Cultivating respectful communities has also led me to work on a Louisville Institute research project surveying MC USA women in ministry on their experiences—it's been fascinating work so far. Cautionary tales like [The Meeting House](#) remind us that it takes intentionality, not reactivity after it's too late, to create victim-centered cultures of respect and care for everyone.

Pastoral transitions seem to be a set part of the landscape. We've said goodbye to Brian Hanneken from East Holbrook, MaryAnn Conrad from Albuquerque where she served children and youth, and Zach Martinez from Sojourn. And a big hello to Beuford Aeschliman, Andrew Gingerich, and Katrina Toews who have been gathering meetings and serving their community on the Western Slope, with Paul Johnson providing the meditation during the services. We also licensed Hannah Martin to minister to children at Beth-El. There are more pastoral goodbyes and hellos expected in the coming year, namely, Jeni Umble retiring from Living Light of Peace and Nick King guiding Carlsbad Mennonite as they close their church and sell their building to make some "compost" for new growth. In addition, Emmanuel is also continuing to seek a new pastor. (See Moderator Ryan's report for Leadership Board and Ministerial Council transitions.)

Passion Ministries are celebrating new growth as well. To highlight just a few things: Frontier Village Foundation gave significant funding to Fort Collins Mennonite Fellowship's ministry to unhoused folks, Beth-El Church's mobile clothes ministry to immigrants, and [Prayerstream](#)'s mobile sanctuary serving communities in crisis, among other ministries. And in a nation where gun violence is now the number one cause of death for children, [RAWtools](#) has been partnering with the Denver Broncos and the cities of Denver and Aurora to host 8 gun buybacks this year—the buyback on March 19, for example, took 189 weapons off the streets to turn them into garden tools. And [TiLT](#) is continuing much of their work and rebuilding after the fire while helping to seed/partner with Quilt, a ministry in Questa, NM to fill housing and rehabilitation gaps for those in recovery, with Mennonite Disaster Service helping with their clean up and building projects.

In May, the Special Delegate Assembly in Kansas City was a groundbreaking event I was glad to participate in. Folks from around the country brought their whole selves to discern together the way forward as a denomination, especially in terms of LGBTQIA inclusion. I was able to hold our conference up as an example to others—even though we are the first conference to ordain an openly gay pastor, not all of our churches agree on that, and yet we stay in fellowship together. At the same time, in Jesus' ministry it was a sign of the coming Kingdom of Heaven that the marginalized were brought to the center, so we keep lifting up the voices of those historically marginalized.

Through the ups and downs, Moderator Ryan Koch, Administrator Jen Dudenhefer, and Bookkeeper Rita Balzer have been a fantastic team to work with. Special thanks to Ryan, who is always in touch with what's going on, can anticipate the best way forward, and draws people in to serve others and to be better versions of themselves—all while laughing his signature laugh.

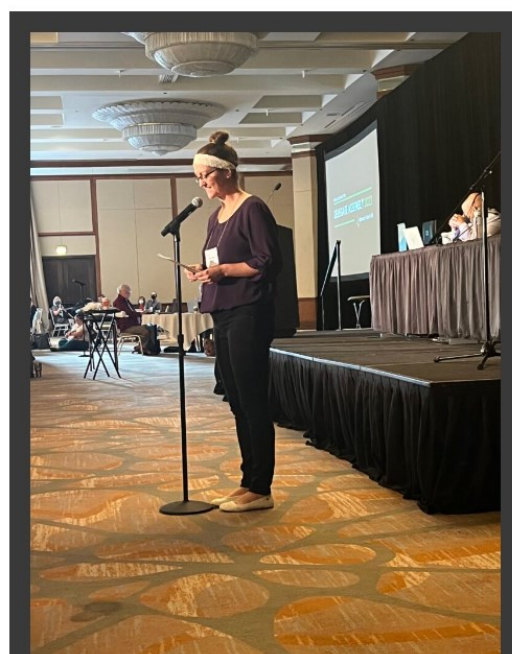
I'm extremely grateful to be part of the trudging, meaningful, difficult, beautiful work of cultivation here in Mountain States Mennonite Conference. And on behalf of the Leadership Board, Ryan and I are excited to share some new ideas for the future growth at Assembly 2022!

At the risk of being repetitious, here are things I've been up to the last year in hard data form:

- Had approximately 204 meetings with pastors and other leaders in our conference (updates, support/encouragement, talking through issues, etc.)
- Helped/helping with 4 church conflicts/discernment processes, and involved the Dialogue Resource Team in 2 of them. My hope is that churches see me as a resource to help deal with issues before they become huge crises.
- Helped/helping with 5 pastoral transitions.
- Preached throughout the conference at every church that invited me, and a couple I invited myself. :)
- Attended or facilitated meetings of SECOMP, All Pastor's, DAAM, Assembly, Spiritual Direction, Conference Ministers meeting, Ministerial Council meeting, Constituency Leaders Council, Special Delegate Assembly in KC, and weekly meetings with the Moderator.
- Helped plan Assembly, Pastor's Retreat, and Faith & Life. The spring F&L was *The Myth of the Perfect Victim: A Biblical Case for Taking Survivors Seriously* with Susannah Larry which was well-received overall.
- Spoke on panel about the For Justice in the Criminal Legal System study resolution.
- Wrote articles for the *Zing!* newsletter every month.
- We're currently in the midst of processing an application from someone interested in being an intern in the Future Anabaptist Leaders program for the 2022-2023 school year...should be able to share more on this soon!
- Had various meetings with partners. Our conference has many partners that we work with and I'm grateful to have so many mutually supportive relationships. I am not going to start listing partners here because there are too many and I will inevitably miss someone, so if you're a partner organization, please know that you're appreciated!
- Studying the experiences of MC USA women in leadership through a Louisville Institute grant.
- Continuing ed: TiLT's podcast, read various books, anti-patriarchy group led by Sue Park-Hur and Linda Gehman Peachey, Mary Magdalene class via the Center for Action and Contemplation, AMBS Political Idolatry webinar, Hauerwas/Ellen Davis lecture series on the virtues, etc.

(First Photo: Amy speaks to the delegates at the special assembly in Kansas City over Memorial Day weekend. (Photo from MC USA) ; Second Photo: Amy Zimbelman, Jenelle Roynon, Jordan Farrell, Sara Branham, Mike Martin, and Samuel Martin pray for Hannah Martin at the service licensing her for special ministry as Associate Pastor of Children at Beth-El Mennonite on March 6, 2022.)

Submitted by Rev. Amy S. Zimbelman, Conference Minister



Amy Zimbelman, conference minister of Mountain States Mennonite Conference

MSMC Financial Report

The most difficult task of the finance committee for Mountain States Mennonite Conference is trying to prepare next year's budget nine months in advance of that following year. This is even more true when you are trying to dream for the future, while also witnessing the landscape of our denomination change again and again, these past few years.

I want to thank churches and individuals for the continued generosity and support towards Mountain States Mennonite Conference. We are a small conference. Most of our churches are relatively small. And yet, people and churches continue to give their money, their gifts, and talents to sustain our conference, even during a global pandemic. For this I'm thankful.

Before we get to 2023's budget, first let's recap 2021 as well as how 2022 is looking so far.

2021 Recap

2021 was another great year for Mountain States Mennonite Conference financially. There are a number of reasons for this. First, we want to thank the churches of MSMC for giving about what we anticipated. Some churches were not able to reach their intended goal; others gave extra. In many ways 2021 was an even more difficult year for our churches than 2020. The pandemic completely drained many of our churches of energy. Meeting virtually became more burdensome. Figuring out how to do church hybridly is still a challenge for some. We are thankful for all the support we received. During 2021 we received an employee retention credit of just over \$11,500. Thanks to the stock market rebounding in the second half 2020 and the beginning of 2021, we also received more finances from our endowment than anticipated. This helped us substantially increase our income for the year and ensured that we would not have to borrow extra from our endowment for a second straight year.

During 2021, many of our expenses remained well under budget. Workers Compensation expenses decreased dramatically due to only having one conference minister instead of three. Office supplies remained way under budget thanks to the pandemic. Travel particularly for non-staff was way below budget. We want to keep finding ways to minimize travel for non-staff, moving forward.

Last year's income exceeded expenses by more than \$14,500. We also did not have to transfer \$15,000 in reserves to make the budget, like anticipated. This surplus, the lack of reserve transfer, and increases to our endowment fund thanks to a good year in the market means our assets are significantly higher at the end of 2020 than they were at the end of 2019. The balance sheet was thrown off by the large estate gift. Not including the estate gift, the balance sheet improved by about \$40,000 YoY, in large part thanks to an increased endowment as well as a surplus.

We also received a second \$11,000 payroll protection loan from the government in 2021 which we are currently applying for forgiveness. We anticipate we will receive forgiveness for this loan in the fall. When we do, it will be added to 2022's income.

2022 at a glance

It is far too early to really gauge 2022's income and expenses. Income from our congregations appears to be down slightly year over year. However, not all churches give regularly.

Grants for 2022 are going to be higher than anticipated. As I mentioned above, we anticipate our second PPP loan for another \$11,000 will be forgiven this fall. When it is, we will add it towards 2022's income. Endowment earnings are in line with our expectations for 2022. However, I expect these to fall behind our projections during Q3 & Q4, due to the recent market pullback. However, thanks to the estate gift, our interest income is much higher than anticipated for 2022. After receiving the estate gift, we put that money in a short-term CD, where it remains.

Due to the special delegate Assembly in Kansas City, our travel expenses increased, as projected for 2022.

Most of our other expenses are in line with expectations, if not slightly below budget.

If we receive forgiveness for the 2nd PPP loan, it is likely we will not need most of the budgeted \$15000 in reserve transfers again in 2022. We anticipate this will be the final year of the conference not needing to use our normal reserve transfer.

2022 appears to be another solid year financially for Mountain States Mennonite Conference. However, we realize that things will become much more tricky starting in 2023. It was not easy crafting a balanced budget for 2023 given an expected decrease in endowment earnings, a fair raise for our employees, as well as contributions decreasing slightly each year from our congregations.

Looking ahead to 2023

In 2023, we again are anticipating a slight decrease in our income from our churches. The big change is that we will be presenting two budgets during the delegate assembly for 2023. Starting in July of 2023 (when Amy's grant ends with the Louisville Institute), we would like to temporarily employ Amy at full-time for two full years. If approved, this increase in pay would be taken directly from the estate gift which we received. Starting in July of 2023, Amy would then be expected to spend ten hours a week supporting the new conference directives, to help them get started.

This means budget A is the normal budget without the increase to Amy's time. Budget B is the proposed budget assuming delegates want to support the vision and ideas which the Leadership Board and Amy have been working on. It will be up to the delegates in July to select which budget to approve.

As you can see, we are projecting a slight decrease in revenue for 2023. Our staffing expenses continue to increase. Mennonite Church USA is advocating for a 4.6% raise for staff for 2023. We followed guidelines for all our employees. To balance the budget, we had to cut some excess like worker's comp among other things. There will not be excess to cut from in 2024. This means we need to find new revenue streams, or we will need to take more from the endowment, moving forward.

One last change we removed healthy boundaries from our budget. In year's past, we used to provide healthy boundaries training as a conference for our churches and pastors. One of the benefits of the pandemic is the denomination now offers these training virtually multiple times a year for the entire denomination. Our goal was never to make or lose money on these healthy boundary training sessions. In reality, this change does not alter our overall budget.

Over the last few years, insurance costs have increased significantly for the Pueblo property. The Leadership and Finance Teams have decided that it is time to start exploring selling the Pueblo property. We recognize that it may take a substantial amount of time to sell a church building in this market. Due to the pandemic, a larger than normal number of churches closed. Unfortunately, the church real estate market is very different from the residential one.

I am thankful for all the work the leadership board and the finance committee of MSMC have done to continue to increase our assets and cash flow. Specifically, I want to thank Tim Yoder for all his work on both the PPP loans as well as the employee retention credit we received. I also want to thank Rita Balzer for always going above and beyond in her service towards the conference. And a special thanks to everyone who gives both financially as well as with their time and energy to the betterment of the conference. We couldn't be who we are nor do the work that we do, without your gifts.

Wild peace,

Ryan Koch, Conference Moderator

Mountain States Mennonite Conference
Balance Sheet
As of June 30, 2022

	Jun 30, 22
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
CD - 6 month	338,766.21
Checking - Everence FCU	33,301.73
Money Market Acct. EFCU	
Church Development	9,701.89
TWIMC/SEED FUNDS	1,385.12
Money Market Acct. EFCU - Other	6.53
Total Money Market Acct. EFCU	11,093.54
Savings, Everence FCU	
Future Anabaptist Ldrshp Fund	7,887.62
Savings, Everence FCU - Other	28,140.43
Total Savings, Everence FCU	36,028.05
Total Checking/Savings	419,189.53
Other Current Assets	
Endowment Fund Acct - MMA	332,207.27
Operating Reserves Acct - MMA	1,646.93
Undeposited Funds	3,167.22
Total Other Current Assets	337,021.42
Total Current Assets	756,210.95
Fixed Assets	
Pueblo Properties	269,540.31
Total Fixed Assets	269,540.31
TOTAL ASSETS	1,025,751.26
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Misc Payables	14,742.34
Payroll Liabilities	336.77
Total Other Current Liabilities	15,079.11
Total Current Liabilities	15,079.11
Total Liabilities	15,079.11
Equity	
APPROPRIATED BALANCES, EQUITY	
Church Development	9,618.53
The World Is My Community Fund	1,385.12
Total APPROPRIATED BALANCES, EQU...	11,003.65
Certificate of Deposit	338,471.29
MSMC - Endowment Fund	332,207.27
Pueblo Properties, 2	269,540.31
Unrestricted Fund Balance	63,755.49
Net Income	-4,305.86
Total Equity	1,010,672.15
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	1,025,751.26

MOUNTAIN STATES MENNONITE CONFERENCE BUDGET

	2020	2021	2022	2022	2023	2023	2023
	FINAL	FINAL	Jan-June	Budget	WORKING	WORKING	Notes
			Actuals		BUDGET A	BUDGET B	
INCOME							
Churches & Emerging Groups							B budget = 6 mos .75 FTE
Albuquerque Mennonite	7390.29	6509.53	4055.52	7500.00	7000.00	7000.00	and 6 mos 1.0 FTE
Alive With Grace Fellowship	1200.00	1200.00	600.00	1200.00	1200.00	1200.00	
Anabaptist Fellowship Alamosa	1000.00	2000.00	0.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	
Beloved Community	150.00	600.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	
Beth El Mennonite	13943.00	14500.00	3625.00	14500.00	14500.00	14500.00	
Boulder Mennonite	5000.00	5000.00	5000.00	6000.00	6000.00	6000.00	
East Holbrook Mennonite	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Emmanuel Mennonite	6200.00	6600.00	3300.00	6000.00	6000.00	6000.00	
First Mennonite Denver	28000.00	27999.96	12250.02	28000.00	28000.00	28000.00	
Ft Collins Mennonite	300.00	0.00	0.00	350.00	350.00	350.00	
Glennon Heights Mennonite	12541.66	10500.00	5250.00	10500.00	10500.00	10500.00	
Glenwood (Defiance) Mennonite	500.00	500.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	
Hmong Mennonite	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	
Living Light of Peace	1600.00	700.00	600.00	1500.00	1000.00	1000.00	
Mtn Community Mennonite	1750.00	4200.00	0.00	3500.00	3500.00	3500.00	
Sojourn Mennonite	1500.00	1900.00	0.00	1000.00	1500.00	1500.00	
Total Church Income	81674.95	82809.49	35280.54	82650.00	82150.00	82150.00	
Investment Contributions							
Endowment Earnings	12534.67	13265.08	7067.70	13600.00	12500.00	12500.00	
Interest Earnings - Other	72.14	101.88	287.93	50.00	250.00	250.00	
Operating Reserve Earnings	68.09	68.44	34.50	125.00	100.00	100.00	
Total Investment Contributions	12674.90	13435.40	7390.13	13775.00	12850.00	12850.00	
Other Revenue							
Annual Assembly	5450.00	10623.60	1650.42	8000.00	8000.00	8000.00	
Designated TWIMC, ASC, Other	32241.02	2074.89	249.96				
Development Fund Transfer (25%)	5737.78	4305.52	3233.97	3300.00	2700.00	2700.00	
Other Contributions	9771.96	10299.30	2725.47	11000.00	11130.00	11130.00	
Pueblo Properties	6917.00	5400.00	2700.00	5400.00	5400.00	5400.00	

MOUNTAIN STATES MENNONITE CONFERENCE BUDGET

	2020	2021	2022	2022	2023	2023	2023
	FINAL	FINAL	Jan-June	Budget	WORKING	WORKING	Notes
Other Revenue Continued			Actuals		BUDGET A	BUDGET B	
Healthy Boundary Training	0.00	0.00	0.00	2000.00	0.00	0.00	
Reserves Transfer	0.00	0.00	0.00	15000.00	15000.00	15000.00	
Future Anabaptist Leadership Fund		4281.31	0.00				
Grants	11180.00	11657.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Estate Funds Transfer						9938.00	covers increase CM time etc
Total Other Revenue	73317.76	50663.29	12581.82	46722.00	42230.00	52168.00	
TOTAL INCOME	167667.61	146908.18	55252.49	143147.00	137230.00	147168.00	
EXPENSES							
Conference Staff (Combined)			-	-	-	-	
Salaries	59826.18	59143.62	29931.16	61848.00	64692.00	73395.00	4.6% COL
Benefits	15023.59	17330.53	9333.69	18916.00	19531.00	19766.00	
Fica	2183.78	936.56	410.97	913.00	957.00	957.00	
Ministry Expense	2202.61	6405.33	3184.90	8250.00	8250.00	9250.00	
Total Conference Staff	79236.16	83816.04	42860.72	89927.00	93430.00	103368.00	
Office/Capital Expenses							
Liability Insurance/Workers Comp	3130.00	2928.00	2964.00	6000.00	4000.00	4000.00	
Office Supplies	3267.73	3123.49	1298.72	4500.00	4000.00	4000.00	
Pueblo Properties	9444.74	9439.55	1968.57	9500.00	9500.00	9500.00	
Total Office/Capital	15842.47	15491.04	6231.29	20000.00	17500.00	17500.00	
Conference Gatherings							
Annual Assembly	2062.98	8643.31	500.00	6500.00	6500.00	6500.00	
Faith and Life Forum	0.00	1000.00	550.00	3000.00	3000.00	3000.00	
Travel	930.81	907.64	1744.34	5000.00	5000.00	5000.00	
Healthy Boundary Training							
Total Conference Gatherings	2993.79	10550.95	2794.34	14500.00	14500.00	14500.00	

MOUNTAIN STATES MENNONITE CONFERENCE BUDGET

	2020	2021	2022	2022	2023	2023	2023
	FINAL	FINAL	Jan-June	Budget	WORKING	WORKING	Notes
			Actuals		BUDGET A	BUDGET B	
Supporting Our Mission							
Healthy Boundary Training	0.00	2000.00	0.00	2000.00	0.00	0.00	
Designated TWIMC, ASC, Other		1385.12					
TWIMC F&R Project	32241.02	689.77					
MCUSA Support	5500.00	5500.00	2750.00	5500.00	5500.00	5500.00	
Rocky Mtn Menno Camp	4800.00	4800.00	2400.00	4800.00	4800.00	4800.00	
The Corinthian Plan	230.00	300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
SEED projects/Future ALF	11500.00	1500.00	0.00	1500.00	0.00	0.00	
Grants							
Matching Internship Fund		4281.31					
CM Initiative			500.00	1500.00	1500.00	1500.00	
Total Supporting our Mission	54271.02	20456.20	5650.00	15300.00	11800.00	11800.00	
<u>TOTAL EXPENSE</u>	<u>152343.44</u>	<u>130314.23</u>	<u>57536.35</u>	<u>139727.00</u>	<u>137230.00</u>	<u>147168.00</u>	
<u>NET INCOME</u>	<u>15324.17</u>	<u>16593.95</u>	<u>-2283.86</u>	<u>3420.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	

Dialogue Resource Team Report

The Dialogue Resource Team's (DRT) four members offer a broad range of professional training and experience to help organizations assess and address dynamics related to decision-making, change, and conflict. Two members reside in the Conference; two others who have recently relocated remain active and available for referrals: Alice M. Price, Team liaison (Alamosa), Duncan Smith (Washington State), Jeff Newcomer Miller (VA), and Jill Schmidt (Denver). The DRT is a long-standing resource to the life and work of the Conference and Conference leadership. Through Conference Minister referrals, Team members are also available to assist local congregations through conflict coaching, skill-building, and meeting facilitation, and – as time and resources allow – more extended consultations in situations of significant concern. Effective use of video conferencing in recent years has bolstered our Team's capacity to make DRT services more accessible to congregations throughout the Conference. DRT can also assist in identifying outside resources closer to a local community or with a focus on interpersonal conflicts or other specialties suited to particular types of dynamics impacting a congregation.

This past year, DRT processed three congregational referrals with the Conference Minister, leading to one video consultation with congregational leaders and two congregational meeting facilitations. Team members also gave input to the Conference initiative related to sexual harassment and abuse, and wrote "With Care" columns for ZING! Details about DRT resources, referrals, and suggested fees are on the Conference website. If you or someone you know has the background and skills to contribute to our Team and would like to be considered for this role, contact the Team liaison below.

Submitted by Alice M. Price, DRT Liaison

Ministerial Council Report

The Ministerial Council is the body that handles credentialing interviews within the Mountain States Mennonite Church Conference for our member churches. We work closely with the Conference Minister who works directly with churches in the search process and officiates at licensing and ordination services. The Ministerial Council also advises the Conference Minister on setting up mentoring partnerships for new pastors and the ongoing needs around credentialing.

The Ministerial Council currently consists of four members:

Debbie Miller, co-chair, Glennon Heights Mennonite Church, Lakewood, CO
Jenelle Roynon, co-chair, Beth El Mennonite Church, Colorado Springs, CO
Zack Martinez, Fort Collins, CO
Randy Spaulding, Boulder Mennonite Church, Boulder, CO

The Ministerial Council has had a rather quiet year. But we remain ready to work with churches and individuals with credentialing for ministry, as the need arises.

In November we had a “sacred conversation” with Hannah Martin to review the request for Licensing for Specific Ministry as Associate Pastor of Children at Beth-El Mennonite Church. We offered unanimous affirmation of Hannah and her licensing service was held on February 27.

We brought a proposal to the Leadership Board to officially no longer require the MC to review the credentials of pastors who perform same-sex marriages. The proposal was approved.

This summer we consulted with Amy Zimbelman, Conference Minister, on a proposal for a Ministerial Ethics Covenant. Covenants from other Mennonite conferences were used to help create the covenant for our conference. This will be brought to delegates at the 2022 Annual Assembly for approval.

Submitted by Debbie Miller, Ministerial Council Co-Chair



CASA DE PAZ

Reuniting families separated by
immigrant detention,
one simple act of love at a time.

July 7, 2022

Dear Mountain States MC,

Thank you for Mountain States Mennonite Conference's generous support of Casa de Paz in the past. Your support helped Casa de Paz continue our mission to reunite families separated by immigrant detention, one simple act of love at a time. This work included providing hospitality – food, clothing, shelter, emotional support, and transportation – to men and women released from the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Detention Center in Aurora. Casa de Paz also serves immigrants while they are being detained through advocacy and emotional support, as well as hosting out of town family members coming to visit their detained loved ones. Casa provides hospitality and immediate needs at no cost to its guests, most of whom have no more than the clothing on their backs when released from detention centers.

Mass releases of 70+ people per day continue from the Aurora ICE facility as migrants cross the border daily into the US. We are waiting to see how the Ukraine war affects immigration and ICE in 2022 and beyond. This has caused increase in the need for services, including an uptick in the need to provide extended stays (up to one week) and increased food and transportation costs. As Casa de Paz strives to meet these needs by hiring additional staff and paying for hotel stays to accommodate overflow, we are grateful for long-time partners such as Mountain States Mennonite Conference who generously support our work.

Thank you once again for your support. Your partnership made a difference for detained immigrants who are struggling with isolation and lack of resources, and we hope to partner again with you in the future.

Families belong together,

Andrea Loya
Executive Director

Frontier Village Foundation Report

The Frontier Village Foundation has a history of supporting ministries in our region through good economic times and bad. Our fund value of \$557,000 has navigated the recent economic storms well, in part thanks to our strong relationship and guidance from Everence. Eight members of FVF's board met in April to review all of the grant requests we received in order to discern this year's distribution. The foundation has typically prioritized requests which directly contribute to the lives of people in our region, are new or recent startup ministries, and have a connection to people or churches within MSMC.

This year we distributed \$35,570 in grants to fund five different projects.

Beth-El Mennonite Church – The Mobile Clothing Closet provides clothes to immigrants in the Colorado Springs community struggling with both transportation and childcare. The program has new and gently-used clothing which is delivered to clients in need, providing dignity which comes through choice.

Denver Inner City Parish – Funds will support the implementation of a Mobile Food Pantry under their broad-reaching hunger programming. The food pantry is a pop-up distribution site in six communities supporting low-income families in the Denver metro area to help relieve suffering and enrich lives.

Ft. Collins Mennonite Fellowship – The Thunder Justice Project will provide legal and bonding services to the homeless poor in the Ft. Collins community. Many of their homeless friends lack the skills to effectively address their legal situations and court appearances.

Prayerstream – This grant will strengthen and expand their collaboration with communities in crisis by staffing the mobile sanctuary during disasters and building on existing partnerships. They will be able to provide spiritual and emotional care to a broader community during emergencies.

The Place – Funds provide a safe shelter for youth experiencing homelessness in the Pikes Peak region due to family violence or other problems. Their services include emergency shelter, meals, life skills training, abuse treatment, medical care, and other critical needs.

The Frontier Village Foundation has contributed \$797,000 over its 37-year history to ministries connected to our conference and congregations. Over those years, 97 individuals have served as board members on this vital and supportive foundation.

Submitted by Bryan Miller, President, FVF Board of Directors

Alamosa MVS Report

The past 2 years have greatly impacted lives and organizations everywhere. The Alamosa MVS unit, our placement sites, and our host congregation – Anabaptist Fellowship of Alamosa – are no exceptions. On top of unexpected changes brought by COVID in early 2020, Mennonite Mission Network was already well into transitioning almost all aspects of the operational and fiscal structures for MVS from the national to the local unit level. Nonetheless, the Alamosa MVS unit has continued to move forward with strong commitments and in good spirits. With national recruitment down for many faith-based volunteer programs, we felt fortunate to have two new members join our unit in Summer 2021, and two others stay on as associates after wrapping up their 2-year volunteer terms, creating a strong base for community living in the volunteer house. Later this summer, we will welcome two new volunteers, and are thrilled that this year's volunteers have both extended for a second year of service – again giving us a viable household. All in all, our volunteers and associates have done a remarkable job of creating community, enjoying life together, doing meaningful service work, and digging into broader opportunities Alamosa and the surrounding communities and landscape of the San Luis Valley have to offer, despite COVID. And our long-standing partnerships with a range of local non-profit initiatives remain strong as well.

Considerable time and new financial commitments have gone into transitioning MVS in Alamosa towards local autonomy and sustainability. Our host congregation – a small house church without ordained leadership – is also still discerning how to transition from two years of monthly Zooms into a new rhythm of gatherings that resonate with ever-waning interest in “church” for the mainly 20-somethings that make up our small circle. With the 40th anniversary of Alamosa MVS (formerly La Jara MVS) just around the corner in 2023, our continuing hope and commitment is for MVS to continue to flourish here with on-going support from our handful of Mennonites who call the San Luis Valley home.

Submitted by Alice M. Price, Alamosa MVS Local Program Coordinator

Prayerstream Report

Prayerstream brings spiritual care, active listening and direct support to communities in crisis. For more information, contact prayerstream@mountainstatesmc.org

What an abundance of opportunities God is sending our way again this year! And, along with the many invitations, we are being provided with the resources we need: Many prayers, willing volunteers, and donations support our work. We are grateful for the recent news that we have been awarded a grant from Frontier Village Foundation.

*Our response to the Marshall fire has taken many forms: We delivered cards of encouragement, “Jesus Comfort Quilt” coloring books, and comfort kits to people in churches, neighborhoods, the firehouse, and the school in Louisville in areas where many lost their homes. We continue to make comfort kits for those affected by this disaster. We have also taken prayer walks through the burn areas.

*We are offering support to a new Anabaptist fellowship of mostly young people on the Western Slope. They are so dedicated that they literally set their own table by preparing a meal, planning worship, and driving many miles to be church together and raise their children in our Anabaptist faith and traditions. Besides joining them in worship several times, we participated in a retreat of service, worship, and fellowship at a camp near Snowmass.

*We have joined with Paul and Mary Johnson to help feed and minister to those living on the streets of E. Colfax in Denver. Boulder Mennonite helped create and write notes of encouragement, which were distributed with Easter dinners.

*The Prayerstream Zoom community, led by Brenda Fox and others, met on Tuesday mornings throughout winter and spring to share griefs and gratitude. This group has become a meaningful connection for people across Colorado and beyond.

*We are helping facilitate several Mennonite Disaster Service work weeks in Questa, NM, cleaning up and rebuilding a space for a healing community and employment for formerly addicted and/or incarcerated folks.

*Prayerstream has been present and active for 5 weeks this summer near Grand Lake, where youth groups came to take burned trees to the chipper, spread mulch, and build fences for a church camp. Prayer and devotions were woven together with Creation Care, work, and play.

*We still have hopes to be able to return to the Poudre Canyon to help re-seed and plant seedlings, reconnecting with the residents after our meaningful service project last summer.

Thank you for all your support and encouragement! We hope you will continue to join our events, invite your friends, and share in the teachings of Jesus to “Love one another”!

Submitted by Carole Suderman

RAWtools Report

Since our last annual assembly, RAWtools has been busier than ever. In November of 2021, we announced with the cities of Denver and Aurora a partnership for 8 gun buybacks, 4 in each city. Shortly after the new year, the Denver Broncos announced RAWtools was one of six organizations to receive a grant from their Inspire Change program, which focuses on social justice initiatives live gun violence prevention. As of the 4th buyback, we have disabled over 450 guns and are on pace for 1,000 firearms to be disabled. We have relied heavily on volunteer support for these buybacks, often needing 30-40 at each event. Thank you to those of you who have helped!

We also launched RAWtools Philadelphia in March, 2022 and our national network continues to grow to over 100 people and organizations helping disable firearms across the country, including blacksmiths that help make tools. As we approach 10 years of operation in Feb of 2023, we ask for your prayers as we look to expand staff and possibly find our first public space to operate out of. If you would like to connect you can contact us at info@rawtools.org or you can donate at rawtools.org/donation.

Submitted by Mike Martin, RAWtools Executive Director

TiLT Report

TiLT launches QUILT In the past year TiLT, the Taos Initiative for Life Together, has helped to launch QUILT, the Questa Initiative for Life Together! Daniel “Ryno” Herrera and his family own & manage the two-acre trailer park we call QUILT, and he has a vision to give the aging facility a new look and a new purpose. TiLT, QUILT and MDS are teaming up to upgrade the property to be a sober living village, business incubator and affordable housing complex along with a community center & shaded plaza, ceremonial space and sweat lodge, meeting rooms, greenhouses and growing spaces, pocket patios and safe places for children.

The Repurposing Plastic Project [RPP] Presses Onward: TiLT’s Repurposing Plastic Project continues to collect post-consumer plastic from 300+ dues-paying Taos County residents & businesses and turn that waste into walls. Each week RPP hires three employees part-time to compress plastic [that would normally go into the landfill] into hand-crafted wire frames to make what we’ve come to call “Redi-Walls”—8’x16”x50” ready-to-stucco modular wall sections that one could use as a building material instead of cinderblock or adobe. Our next phase is to establish a market for these walls—we seek purchasers who want to buy and build with our product.

The Watershed Way Wades Deeper: For several years now, TiLT has continued to sponsor and spread the Watershed Way as a covenanted social-spiritual movement that honors and uplifts the diverse cultures and spiritualities of Taos County by living into the motto “Do unto those downstream as you would have those upstream do unto you.” TiLT allies host seasonal events such as San Isidro Day each May 15 which bring together our diverse cultures in ceremony and community action, seeking an earth-honoring, culture-dignifying, community-empowering, empire-resisting, resource-sharing, despair-crushing, spirit-following way of life.

RYNO Recovery Sober Living Program in planning phase: NM Department of Behavior Health has granted a second phase of modest seed funding to TiLT so that Todd Wynward and Daniel “Ryno” Herrera can continue to develop plans for a culture-based, peer-led sober living program which aims to start July 2023 at the QUILT site in Questa. Daniel’s own experience with addiction and incarceration—and his own powerful and positive life choices over the last seven years of sobriety and community leadership—make him an ideal program leader and pathway navigator for other natives and Hispanos who grew up in northern NM and seek to change their lives for the better. Daniel and Todd aim to spend this next year developing programming, drawing up budgets, establishing policies and protocols, seeking funding, improving the site, collaborating with allies and agencies, hiring & training staff, and recruiting the first cohort of nine RYNO Recovery program participants to kick off the six-month residential program July 2023. No affordable sober living residential program of this kind currently exists in the area.

August 5-6-7 MDS Multicultural Work Party Weekend in Questa, NM

Come help transform a trailer park into a vibrant village! The primary focus will be plastering a large privacy wall built out of repurposed plastic, providing a safe space at the trailer park for residents to picnic and children to play. The Herrera family’s vision for the site has been deeply honored and supported by MDS earlier this summer, and in turn the site has supported MDS as a specific project where MDS’ New Mexico chapter and CO chapter can join forces as they merge.

Save the Date Oct 27-30, 2022 a Four Day Event in Taos: TiLT’s Rising From the Ashes!

Two years after an arson fire and shooting disrupted and displaced us, TiLT is retuning home to our remodeled adobe & timber hacienda stronger than ever, & we want you there to celebrate!

Four days of ceremony, service, conscious conversations, TiLT Talks, music and movies

Four strands of music from the four cultures that TiLT brings together: Taos Pueblo drumming and singing, Danza Azteca praying & performing, groovy Taos hippie music playing, and a Mennonite hymn sing!

Four-fold Path to Restoration themes, restoring right relation with self, other, nature & Creator

Holding this four-day event at TiLT is dependent upon if the remodeling work is completed on schedule, which of course is a big IF! Save the date, and stay tuned for more information!

To get information or give support, contact toddwynward@gmail.com

Submitted by Todd Wynward, TiLT Founder and Executive Director