

Glenwood Mennonite Church

Glenwood Springs, Colorado

August 2009

Glenwood Mennonite Church has enjoyed a year of growth—seems the growing edge right now are the young adults who find our peace witness and worship style attractive. The prayers and the challenge that come with that is how to integrate all with integrity. Everyone brings unique gifts and vision and how the church welcomes each one is formative for who we are becoming. Candidly, we seem to be aging and attracting young adults at the same time.

Our congregation is organized with three small groups—Missions, Community and Worship—and with the leader of each small group plus the Pastor making up our Leadership Team. I think most would agree that it's been the Mission Small Group that has been creating energy and setting agenda for us lately and that's a new and great mile marker. Normally, it's been the Worship Group that has taken the lead in congregational issues, but with the influence of new (younger adult) leadership, the Holy Spirit is bringing new questions and energies. In addition to leading worship for a local nursing home, numerous coin collections for various missions, the new directions include sponsoring a peace



essay for local high school, sponsoring a family at Christmas, peace vigil during Lenten Season, and helping form an after-school program. One of the future missions we're excited about is the donation of one or more bicycles through projectwanda.org. We'll also hopefully participate in a 2 day bicycle tour which supports a local homeless ministry---you can read about it at ride4shelter.com

The Community Small Group keeps us building community by planning retreats, movie and game nights and monthly potluck dinners. And last, this fall we're planning a congregational Faith and Life to readdress key questions such as church vision, hidden conflict, budget challenges and future challenges.