

Moderator's Report

When I attend my church, Glennon Heights Mennonite on a Sunday morning, my Pastor Betsy Headrick McCrae during her pastoral prayer always refers to Glennon Heights as our "beloved congregation." I have grown to love this way of referring to my own congregation.

I have now completed my first year as Moderator for Mountain States Mennonite Conference, and I like to use Betsy's endearing terminology when I think of our own Mountain States Mennonite Conference. We have 21 congregations who make up our "beloved conference" and a dedicated group of pastors who lead these congregations. We also have 2 emerging congregations and our Seed Project is well underway. Currently there are no pastoral openings within our conference. I personally think that is pretty amazing. I credit the careful work Herm does as he works with congregations who are making big decisions on new leadership.

Our Leadership Board continues to assist Herm with the issues of being conference. During Jerry Martin's term as moderator we worked on our conference by-laws making necessary changes so we can be more effective in our work. I value this work and am so appreciative of the leadership Jerry provided.

This year Herm has set aside Tuesday as a day when he calls pastors and leaders in our congregations listening to them and offering assistance when needed. We as a Leadership Board have each taken 3 or 4 congregations who we will relate to during this coming year. We have committed to praying regularly for the congregation and leadership as well as communicating and visiting with the congregation during the year. We see this ministry as another way we can assist Herm in his role as Conference Minister and as a way we can journey alongside congregations in our own beloved conference. .

I value the time I spend with Herm as we discuss together the many and varied issues of our conference. Herm cares deeply for Mountain States Mennonite Conference and it is evident as we talk together. I would ask all of you to pray for Herm and the ministry of our beloved conference as we work together to do church in our many and varied ways.

I am so grateful for the work of Nancy Stoltzfus, our Prayer Network Coordinator who has committed to praying for congregations and their leadership. She brings a deep spirituality and the worshipful work she does is an asset to our conference.

This year we said goodbye to Angie Martin from East Holbrook Mennonite. She recently became engaged and has moved to Hesston, Kansas where her fiancé lives. We wish her the very best. We are also saying goodbye this year to Ken Gingerich who has been part of the Leadership Board for 6 years. He has brought his expertise and knowledge about the greater church to our conference as well as his talents in communication and marketing. We will deeply miss his insights and knowledge. Thanks Ken for your hard work. Paula Brunk Kuhns has accepted another term on the Leadership Board and we are very thankful for her continued leadership on the board.

I am excited as I anticipate annual conference this year in Pueblo. I hope you all join me as we celebrate together with all the people associated and involved with our beloved Mountain States Mennonite Conference.

Rhoda M. Blough
June 30, 2010