

# with hope

faith for an  
unknown season 2014



**Mennonite Church Canada Assembly**  
Winnipeg Manitoba, July 3 - July 6, 2014

**Assembly 2014**  
Report Book

faith for an  
unknown season



## Assembly 2014 - July 3-6, 2014 Wild Hope: Faith for an unknown season

The western world is rapidly moving beyond Christendom. The church must take Christian faith into a new cultural and civic landscape - one that is already well entrenched in Europe and Australia. There is disorientation for God's church in this new wilderness, but also a strong sense of hope that this represents a tremendous opportunity to hear God's call anew and shape a new kind of church for the future – a future that may be more like witness planting than church planting. The beliefs and convictions of individuals will be influenced in ways we have not yet imagined nor discovered. In Canada, we are well acquainted with the four seasons: will we be able to embrace an entirely new and, to us, possibly foreign season? What role will there be for the institutional church at all levels: congregational, area church, and national church? How we choose to face this new season, and how we experience Christ in this new season, will influence how it concludes. That is why the Being a Faithful Church process is such an important exercise in discernment and understanding of God's word, and why the Future Directions Task Force is looking ahead.

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# How To Use This Report Book

This book contains the reporting materials reflecting our work since we last met.

A basic schedule for the proceedings and an agenda can be found on the last page. A Discernment Guide (published separately) contains the information needed for our discussions and decisions. A more detailed agenda can be found in the Program Book, which will be available onsite.

The reports and stories in this report book represent the people and ministries in the Mennonite Church Canada family. Together, they tell the larger story of God at work in the world as we align ourselves with God's purpose.

We hope that you find this report book to be a helpful way of visualizing relationships and growing in your awareness of the depth and breadth of your national church.

## Assembly Purposes and Goals

The primary purposes of the Mennonite Church Canada Annual Delegate Assembly are to:

1. Provide opportunities for participants to build up and nurture the church by:
  - a. Forming faith and Christian identity from an Anabaptist Mennonite perspective, in children and adults.
  - b. Learning about and discerning Mennonite Church Canada's participation in God's work.
  - c. Debating issues facing the church and issuing statements as appropriate.
  - d. Worshiping and building community with people from across the national church.
  - e. Learning through seminars, displays and special events, which highlight available resources.

2. Conduct the business of the organization as described in the Mennonite Church Canada bylaws<sup>1</sup> by:
  - a. Reviewing the work and ministry of Mennonite Church Canada.
  - b. Accepting or rejecting the budgets and financial statements of Mennonite Church Canada.
  - c. Appointing an auditor.
  - d. Accepting, rejecting or removing area churches as members or as provisional members.
  - e. Electing its officers, boards, councils, and committees.
  - f. Amending the bylaws of Mennonite Church Canada as needed and monitoring adherence to those bylaws.

Approved by Support Services Council March 6, 2009

<sup>1</sup> These are summary statements. See Part III, Section 8 of the Mennonite Church Canada bylaws for a full description of the duties and powers of voting delegates.

## Abbreviations

AMBS .....Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary  
ANISA..... Anabaptist Network in South Africa  
CAMS .....Canadian Association of Mennonite Schools  
CAN..... Chinese Anabaptist Network  
CMU ..... Canadian Mennonite University  
CPT..... Christian Peacemaker Teams  
CMM ..... Conference of Mennonites in Mexico  
FLA .....Fall Leadership Assembly  
FLC ..... Faith and Life Committee  
FPAC..... Financial Policy and Audit Committee  
FYE .....Fiscal Year End  
GB ..... General Board  
JEC ..... Joint Executive Council  
KAC ..... Korea Anabaptist Center  
KPMG ..... Auditors for Mennonite Church Canada  
MC ..... Mennonite Church

MC SASK ..... Mennonite Church Saskatchewan  
MCA ..... Mennonite Church Alberta  
MCA ..... Mennonite Camping Association  
MCBC ..... Mennonite Church British Columbia  
MCC ..... Mennonite Central Committee  
MCCC ..... Mennonite Central Committee Canada  
MCEC ..... Mennonite Church Eastern Canada  
MCM ..... Mennonite Church Manitoba  
MDS ..... Mennonite Disaster Service  
MEDA ..... Mennonite Economic Development Association  
MFC ..... Mennonite Foundation of Canada  
MWC ..... Mennonite World Conference  
MWC ..... Mennonite Women Canada  
PBCI ..... Peacebuilders Community Inc.  
SLA ..... Spring Leadership Assembly

## Greetings,

Our Assembly 2014 theme *Wild Hope, faith for an unknown season* conjures up various images. For example, sensing an "unknown season" can conjure images of global political unrest where the future for many appears hazy and bleak. It can also be experienced closer to home, within changes affecting Canadian culture, neighbourhoods and congregational demographics. We don't know what will happen as we go forward.

When surrounding circumstances appear positive, we are able to move forward with a sense of confidence. However when all these circumstances are beyond our control, we begin to feel vulnerable. We are inclined to resist loss of control; yet it is in these raw, uneasy places where Hope—indeed Wild Hope—waits to be found.

In our Canadian context, we as a church family live with an increased sense of not knowing how to move forward or what direction to take. This is evident at the congregational, area and national level. During this season where greater clarity is being discerned, the church is listening hopefully to the Holy Spirit through the Being a Faithful Church Task Force and the Future Directions Task Force processes. Other signs of Hope are evident. One of the great joys I've experienced in recent months is meeting with some of our "newcomer congregations"—code for congregations whose members are predominantly of non-European Mennonite descent, whose members often speak languages other than English or German. As a missional people we have been a welcoming community to many people groups from around the globe. We have been enormously blessed by the rich uniqueness of gifts that God has provided for building up the church. Whether we are of Swiss, northern European, Chinese, Ethiopian, Vietnamese or other descent, we desire to be in relationship with one another. We share a common identity in the Body of Christ.

We are grateful for the prayers and financial generosity of congregations across the country, as each of these contributions supports the work of the church. We are also grateful to the staff and international workers, and those who serve as members of Task Forces, Councils, Committees and the General Board. Their commitment and dedication to the work of the Church is most appreciated. We are extraordinarily blessed by the diversity of people and gifts that God continues to offer for building up the Church, and we live in the Hope that these gifts will be joyfully welcomed and shared in the her ministry.

Whatever the season, God's Word equips us to share the Hope that is in Christ Jesus. And in this season of mystery, may we heed Paul's admonition that we "*lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all,*



*H. A. Hildebrand*

*who is above all and through all and in all.*" (Eph. 4: 1-6)

We look forward to Assembly 2014 as a place where we join hearts, minds and imaginations as a people of God.

Blessings and Peace,  
Hilda A. Hildebrand, Moderator



**"God is sifting us!" First hand reports from Ukraine**  
Vladimir Iakovich, an elderly handyman on the Odessa Seminary campus in Ukraine, shook his work-stained finger at Mary Raber. "There is a sifting going on! God is sifting us!"  
May 9, 2014



**Resource Centre passes on reduced shipping charges to users**  
Despite a recent hike to Canadian postage rates, Mennonite Church Canada Resource Centre will no longer charge for return shipping on all borrowed items.  
May 9, 2014



**Captive free**  
He walked toward us with a steady gait. Confident. Calm. Content. But certainly not carefree. How could he be?  
April 24, 2014



**American Mennonites attend TRC event**  
A Mennonite delegation of six Americans and two Canadians went to Vancouver, B.C. last fall for a Truth and Reconciliation event.  
April 24, 2014



**Chinese pastors relish opportunity to bond**  
Until about 4 years ago, Chinese Mennonite churches in Macau, Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan had little contact with each other. But in November 2010, the seeds for the Chinese Anabaptist Network were sown when 16 representatives from Mennonite churches and mission bodies in East Asia got together.

## NATIONAL CHURCH NEWS THAT MATTERS

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General 1



**WILD HOPE:  
TRUST, AND THE WAY BEFORE US**

Trust. It's a short word with big implications. I am so grateful that my work encourages me to trust God in all that I do. Trusting God permits me to be wildly hopeful!

In my 2012 report to the delegate assembly, I wrote that any Canadian church wanting to have integrity in our culture must:

- Strengthen relationships with Canada's indigenous people
- Engage our society in the issues of climate justice and earth care
- Exemplify respectful and peaceful interfaith dialogue

These priorities have not changed. In fact, they continue to align closely with what I continue to hear from other Christian church families in Canada.

For example, the top five priorities for the next three years for the Canadian Council of Churches, which represents 25 Christian traditions, are climate justice, poverty in Canada, Indigenous rights, religion and public discourse, and peace and disarmament.

In addition to the above three priorities, I have been engaged in an important subset of tasks:

- Strengthening the profile of Anabaptism with other Mennonite and non-Mennonite audiences in Canada
- More strongly engaging with new Canadian church leaders (we now worship in 20 different languages across Canada)
- Enhancing relationships to strengthen a unified vision and structure to unleash a compelling Anabaptist missional church vision in Area Churches and Congregations

- Coordinating and facilitating two important Task Forces:
  - Being a Faithful Church Task Force
  - Future Directions Task Force
- Establishing a sustainable financial platform for Mennonite Church Canada

**THE WAY BEFORE US**

I am delighted to share with you a few brief updates on these activities:

- I, together with some staff and a number of others from the pews in Mennonite Church Canada, have been privileged to hear the stories of residential school survivors. Listening to these stories is foundational for us as a church if we genuinely seek the healing of relations with Indigenous peoples.
- As a church we continue to learn about climate justice and the impact of our Western way of life on the least of these. In island nations, people's homes and livelihoods are threatened by rising water levels. In arid climates, droughts are getting longer and more severe. We must continue to question our consumption habits and their effects on others – including those in our Mennonite World Conference family – in other regions of the world.
- Together with our moderator, Hilda Hildebrand, I have been visiting our newest Mennonite congregations, comprised of people speaking 20 different languages. Refugee settlement and immigration is the most significant growing edge of our national church family. We will need to be prepared to change 'how we have always done things' to help make these newer sisters and brothers welcome.

- Our Anabaptist perspectives on conflict resolution and peace, discipleship and servanthood – among many other values we hold dear – continue to be openly embraced by people and leaders of Christian and non-Christian faith backgrounds. I continue to hear from the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada and the Canadian Council of Churches about the valuable contributions Mennonite Church Canada is making in circles of different Christian expressions. They deeply desire our voice at the table. I want you to know that our Mennonite “brand” is highly respected well beyond our more intimate circles.
- The Being a Faithful Church process initiated in 2009 is entering the phase of the most challenging conversations – and perhaps the greatest opportunity. To date we have received responses from more than 100 of our 220 plus congregations. Whether we agree or disagree may not be our biggest challenge. How we express our agreement and disagreement may be our biggest witness opportunity in a watching world.
- The Future Directions Task Force continues to work with an agenda that is common across Christian expression: Denominational systems everywhere are in strain and being seriously reviewed. Leaders are looking for creative and innovative approaches to ministry and financial sustainability.

However, there is some bright news for us. A survey last year revealed that in Mennonite Church Canada, we attend worship more frequently and our average age is considerably younger when compared to statistics from mainstream churches. On the other hand, our generous baby boom generation is gradually retiring and moving to fixed incomes. We need to prepare for a different ministry and financial future.

- And the best news for last: In 2013, our donation income exceeded projections for the first time in several years. Thank you!

Waves of change are rippling across the Christian church. Change is often accompanied by anxiety. As People of God, we are always invited to embrace change with confidence. We are assured of God's presence and comforted by the peace of Christ. May we all experience the joy of God's gentle hand leading us along paths we have not known before.

This is an exciting time to be in church leadership. I am deeply grateful for the trust that you, my national faith family, has placed in me for a time such as this. Thank you.

Willard Metzger, Executive Director  
Mennonite Church Canada



## Church Matters Podcast: Episode 87:

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Guest: Willard Metzger

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### RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH A TIME OF CHANGE: MESSAGE FROM THE DENOMINATIONAL MINISTER

The gale-force winds that tossed the disciples and their boat on the Sea of Galilee (the Mark 4 Assembly text) are an appropriate image for today's Christian Church in Canada, including Mennonite Church Canada. The following are just some of the signs of the times of change in which we live:

- Continued growth in new congregations from a rainbow of cultures; Mennonite Church Canada now worships in 20 languages besides English.
- A growing interest from other faith traditions in Anabaptist values.
- Some who have historically been Mennonite are not sure that Anabaptism helps to remain biblically faithful.
- Electronic and social media that make access to information and communication instant, challenging both congregations and wider church bodies to respond in more nimble ways.
- The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada

through its *Hemorrhaging Faith* study (2011) helps to make transparent the toxins that keep today's generation of youth and young adults from claiming Christian faith and identity with the church, as well as where there is potential hope.

- While issues of justice concerning Indigenous people, the environment, peace and economics are all complex conversations that at times create intense disagreements, they are also providing opportunities for new relationships and energizing what it means to be Jesus followers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- Faith formation pillars that formed and became established in the last century, such as Sunday School, Bible studies, camps and schools, are also being challenged to adapt and imagine new ways of engaging Jesus' calling.

These realities push up against us at the congregational, area, national and international church levels; creating many opportunities to consider together and with God what must change in order to be faithful in this day.

"Just a few years ago, we were concerned with a shortage of pastors. That concern has shifted to equipping and supporting pastors and other church leaders for leadership in time of change."

### FORMING A PEOPLE OF GOD FOR A SEASON THAT AS YET IS HARD TO IMAGINE...

The book of Acts is a wild ride of birthing the Church. The world's newest Christians are challenged to find their moorings in the face of an oppressive ruling culture, in the midst of conflict, while deeply desiring to develop as a faith community. Yet it is also an incredible journey of hope and good news that changes individuals and imagines fresh and liberating ways of being a people of faith.

Jesus' followers are keen to know all of this before it happens (Acts 1: 6). On the verge of Jesus' ascension into heaven, Jesus challenges his followers to get ready for the Holy Spirit instead of being concerned when that future will arrive or what it will look like. And so these

followers respond and gather together to pray and pray and pray.

In a variety of settings across the area churches of Mennonite Church Canada, individuals, groups and congregations are open to new partners for prayer, learning together, extending and receiving hospitality and working together. But the new shoreline isn't in sight yet. Relationships between people of different cultures, with Aboriginal neighbours, between people of different generations and those of other faiths may actually provide the pathway for understanding and experiencing where the Spirit is leading us in more fully being the people of God.

#### **ON THE JOURNEY OF BECOMING A GLOBAL CHURCH...**

Our newer Canadian congregations comprising recent refugees and immigrants are connecting us to people who are more than just places on a map or stories in the news. Short term missions, service trips and learning tours mean that more individuals from our congregations are joining long term mission workers in face-to-face connections across the globe. In many places where Mennonite Church Canada Witness (and its predecessor church bodies) has had an historic mission presence, the local church has formed a national church and now relates to Mennonite Church Canada as a national church. We are a member of Mennonite World Conference together with these newer national churches.

We are becoming a global church, and that is to be celebrated! At the same time these new and long term global relationships continue to rightfully challenge us to grow and mature in

intercultural relationships, ministry, mission, leadership and worship where the gifts of all cultures are valued and made visible. Are we, the currently Caucasian majority in Mennonite Church Canada, willing to leave the comfortable shore of the way we have always done things and allow the Holy Spirit to blow new and as yet unimagined life into our Canadian context? Let's celebrate and

*...Gratefully responding to God's initiatives and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves and our resources to calling, equipping and sending the church to engage the world with the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ. -the Mennonite Church Canada Statement of Identity and Purpose.*

persist in those steps where a new blend of being God's people is emerging as the glory and honour of all nations (Rev. 21:26) is valued, revealing God's way more fully.

#### **LEADERSHIP FOR A SEASON OF CHANGE...**

Just a few years ago, we were concerned with a shortage of pastors. That concern has shifted to equipping and supporting pastors and other church leaders for leadership in time of change. Formerly, many pastors were trained to focus primarily on the needs of the congregation and ministry through programs. Now we are hearing that what once worked well in congregational life is no longer working well.

We need to discern God's direction for a new time. Letting go of old ways that no longer serve is like riding a boat in stormy seas. Jesus' followers in the book of Acts were devoted to an active life of maturing and growing character formation through lifelong learning and spiritual practices. Following their lead will provide critical leadership rudders for entering new

waters of ministry.

The *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective (1995)* tells us that the church, including the Mennonite tradition, has adapted its leadership patterns from time to time using a variety of New Testament models - and that we should have the freedom to continue doing so...(page 61). The pastor as shepherd together

with congregational leaders has been a primary model in recent decades. But our growing diversity is helping the church once again recognize that identifying, valuing and adapting other New Testament leadership gifts such as those of the apostles, prophets, evangelists and teachers will help the church to live out the call to join God's presence and mission in our contemporary world.

Thank you for your partnership in being God's people at home, across the street and around the world. Thank you for your generous support for the collective ministry we provide through Mennonite Church Canada. And thank you for your faithful prayers as we grow in trusting God and one another for our future. I look forward to seeing you in Winnipeg at this summer's Assembly!

Karen Martens Zimmerly,  
Denominational Minister



The Faith and Life Committee was put into place in the fall of 2005. Its mandate is to give leadership to Mennonite Church Canada in discerning God's will on issues of theology, ethics, polity and practice.

The focus question for the work of the FLC was developed in the following way:

As a people called into being by God  
Who confess Jesus as Lord and Saviour  
And seek to be guided by the Holy Spirit,  
Who desire under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to be  
Rooted in Scripture, Shaped by the life of the Church,  
Informed by its confessions and denominational statements,  
Who are a part of the church worldwide  
Located in the Canadian society in the twenty-first century.

### **WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A FAITHFUL MENNONITE CHURCH?**

After nine years the FLC finds itself in a place of transition. Out of the five volunteers, two of us will complete our third term and one other member is not able to continue. This has given an opportunity for the Committee to look back on what has been accomplished and ask how this work should continue.

During these years the FLC has worked on and made presentations on topics such as unity and diversity among Christians and within our denominational body, caring for God's creation, confessing Jesus as Lord in a pluralistic time and, most recently, the place of Scripture in our lives. The Vancouver Assembly (2012) on 'Dusting off the Bible' was our first endeavor to do a study conference and that seemed to be a particularly effective forum in which to address the particular concern and theme in focus.

Given that there are presently two Task Forces working, gathering feedback and discerning significant matters for our denomination, and both presenting at Assembly 2014, the FLC decided in our meeting with our Reference Council in November 2013 not to begin work on a new issue this year. Rather we hope, during this time of discernment, to remind our body of the basic, undergirding theological questions of 'why': Why faith? Why Jesus? What is at the heart of being Christian? How do we receive meaning in life? Why the church? By posing those questions in various ways in the next months alongside the ongoing work of our Task Forces we trust that we can help to keep the church grounded in the purpose that Christ has given to us.

Rudy Baergen, Chair  
Faith and Life Committee

# NAVIGATORS NEEDED

nav•i•gate: {năv'ĭ-găt} *tr. v.*  
shine the light, discern the path,  
**engage the journey together**

**God's** compass  
guides Navigators  
as they offer wisdom  
and encouragement  
along the **journey**

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### GENERAL BOARD FALL LEADERSHIP ASSEMBLY 2012

1. **Consensus:** The General Board accepts the GB minutes of July 12 & 15, 2012.
2. **Consensus:** The General Board accepts and approves the Privacy Audit report.
3. **Consensus:** The General Board supports the theme and general direction proposed by FLC for Assembly 2014.
4. **Consensus:** The General Board agrees to suspend taking action to change the Mennonite Church Canada fiscal year-end for one year, and continue to explore its feasibility for an additional year before making a recommendation to the Delegate Assembly in 2014 regarding the 2012 decision.
5. **Consensus:** The General Board agrees that the proceeds of the sale of international assets be divided as per the FPAC proposed formula: 2/3 General Board Reserves; and 1/3 to Witness, where the resources were initially designated.
6. **Consensus:** The General Board agrees, given the value Mennonite Church Canada places on Scriptural discernment; given that the BFC process is designed to strengthen our capacity in this area; and given that we value the broadest use of this tool within our congregations; that Mennonite Church Canada staff, Area Church staff and ministers, along with the BFC Task Force, be encouraged to find innovative ways to walk alongside the newcomer/ethnic churches in Scriptural discernment, while working within our current fiscal and staffing realities.
7. **Consensus:** The General Board agrees that the status quo with respect to programs, structures, and the resources designed to support them is not sustainable, and that steps need to be taken to explore new alternatives; and agrees to set up a task force to explore alternatives and report back to the Executive Committee and the General Board in a time-sensitive manner.
8. **Consensus:** The General Board agrees that the Moderator write the chair of the Canadian Mennonite Board, seeking clarity around the events surrounding the letter from the Canada Revenue Agency.

### GENERAL BOARD SPRING LEADERSHIP ASSEMBLY 2013

1. **Consensus:** The General Board accepts the GB minutes of November 9-10, 2012 and February 4, 2013.
2. **Consensus:** The General Board accepts the Assembly minutes of July, 2012, and recommends they be distributed electronically in the usual format.
3. **Consensus:** The General Board approves the Pastors' Salary Guidelines for 2014.
4. **Consensus:** The General Board recommends Kirsten Schroeder organize a meeting with Area Church moderators regarding the National Health Plan.
5. **Motion:** (Gordon Peters / Dori Zerbe Cornelsen): To transfer from the General Treasury to Internally Restricted funds the following:
  - 1) Formation Council: \$4,000 to a Resource Creation Reserve – funds received from the MBIC Resource Centre funds for ongoing resourcing of congregations;
  - 2) General Board: \$462,318.16, 2/3 to GB General reserve, 1/3 to Witness IM reserve – proceeds from Hong Kong property sale; and \$45,043.15, 2/3 to GB General reserve, 1/3 to Witness IM reserve – proceeds from Argentina and Israel property sales. **Carried.**
6. **Motion:** (Gordon Peters / Laura Loewen): To purchase the software needed for our pension and benefits program. **Carried.**
7. **Consensus:** The General Board accepts FLC's "Proposal for Being a Faithful Church 5," consisting of a preamble (What we have heard?), a study guide, and a short resource paper.
8. **Consensus:** The General Board approves the changes to the Witness Policy Manual, as outlined in the "Revisions for IM Policy Manual Feb.2011 - LTW" document.
9. **Consensus:** The General Board approves the "Revisions to Macau Property Proposal" document as presented.
10. **Consensus:** The General Board decided to hold Mennonite Church Canada's 2013 AGM by conference call, and to invite anyone interested to meet at regional locations to be determined.
11. **Motion:** (Rudy Dirks / Ernie Engbrecht, with the agreement of the original mover and seconder, Gordon Peters / Dori Zerbe Cornelsen): To amend Motion #5 (above) in order to allocate the entire amount of \$45,043.15 – from the sale of property in Israel and Argentina – to GB general reserves. **Carried.**
12. **Motion:** (Gordon Peters / Laura Loewen): To ask the Executive Director to revisit the proposed budget in light of the GB discussion, and present a new budget to the GB.

**JULY 2013**

1. **Consensus:** The General Board accepts the GB minutes of April 19, 2013.
2. **Consensus:** The General Board accepts the GB minutes of June 11, 2013, as amended.
3. **Motion:** (George Epp / Peter Rempel): That the Mennonite Church Canada office implement and administer the Mennonite Church Canada National Health Benefits Plan for the National Church and associated employers, designed by Carey Corp and underwritten by The Standard Life Assurance Company of Canada. **Carried.**
4. **Motion:** (Rudy Dirks / Lisa Carr-Pries): That the Mennonite Church Canada office enrol its eligible employees in the Mennonite Church Canada National Health Benefits Plan. **Carried.**
5. **Consensus:** The General Board accepts the changes to the Vacation Policy.

**NOV 2013**

1. **Consensus:** The General Board accepts the GB minutes of July 12, 2013, as presented.
2. **Consensus:** That the General Board ask Rudy Baergen to continue as chair of the BFC task force, and that someone else on the task force report to the GB.
3. **Consensus:** That the General Board agrees that the Executive Committee can spend up to 15 per cent of the MCEC bequest on things related to Board initiatives such as the BFC and FD task forces.
4. **Consensus:** That the General Board expresses deep gratitude for MCEC's generosity in sharing the bequest received.
5. **Consensus:** That the General Board suggest the following editorial change to the "Draft Canadian Mennonite Covenant" document: Line 10 change seven partners to six.
6. **Consensus:** That the General Board agrees that the schedule for Assembly 2014 be accommodated so that board members can fully participate in the Ministers' Conference.

**SPRING LEADERSHIP ASSEMBLY 2014**

1. **Consensus:** The General Board accepts the GB minutes of November 15-16, 2013, as presented.
2. **Consensus:** The General Board agrees to adopt the "2015 Pastor's Salary Guidelines" .
3. **Motion:** (John Goosen / Earl Reimer): To accept the 2014/15 budget as presented. **Carried.**
4. **Consensus:** The General Board agrees to the changes in the document, "Updates Pending for IM Policy Manual Feb. 1 2014" .
5. **Consensus:** General Board affirms putting together a working group to look at these issues (including bylaws)
6. A one page summary of the GB meetings would be helpful for reporting to Area Churches, so that we all get the same message out.

**GENERAL BOARD TELECONFERENCE CALL APRIL 15, 2014**

1. **Consensus:** The General Board accepts the GB minutes of March 7-8, 2014 as amended.
2. **Consensus:** The General Board supports the BFC 5.1 paper with some amendments to the wording of the key questions.
3. **Motion:** (John Goosen / Dori Zerbe Cornelsen): To accept the audited statements as presented. **Carried.**
4. **Motion:** (John Goossen / Lynell Bergen): To accept KPMG as auditor for 2014. **Carried.**
5. **Motion:** (John Goossen / Peter): To accept the statement for presentation at Assembly. **Carried.**



**Mennonite  
World Conference**

A Community of Anabaptist  
related Churches

**Congreso  
Mundial Menonita**

Una Comunidad de  
Iglesias Anabautistas

**Conférence  
Mennonite Mondiale**

Une Communauté  
d'Eglises Anabaptistes

## Report to Mennonite Church Canada Assembly 2014

*MWC is called to be a communion of Anabaptist-related churches linked to one another in a worldwide community of faith for fellowship, worship, service and witness.*

### Signs of God at Work Including Mennonite Church Canada Members:

- In conversations about Christian identity from an Anabaptist perspective in one's own cultural context, aided by papers by the Faith and Life Commission and itinerant teachers, including Tom Yoder Neufeld and Jack Suderman.
- In learning what it means to be a peace church in the midst of much violence, aided by the Peace Commission's (which includes Jack Suderman as secretary) work on developing guidelines for MWC in political advocacy on behalf of its members;
- In visits by the Deacons Commission delegation, which included Janet Plenert, to the 20,000 Mennonites in Angola to listen, encourage and engage with their global Anabaptist family.
- In the Mission Commission as they work at building collaboration among the 70 member mission agencies from 35 countries that are part of the Global Mission Fellowship and 51 members from 25 countries in the Global Anabaptist Service Network.
- In groups like Mennonite Church Manitoba young adults committing to the two year Quarter Century Project of raising both awareness and funds to support global south attendance at the Global Youth Summit (young adults 18-30) as part of Pennsylvania 2015, the next MWC Assembly in July 2015.
- MWC General Council members Janet Plenert – who is currently serving as MWC Vice President – Willard Metzger, and Tom Yoder Neufeld as the General Council provides leadership to MWC;
- In the involvement of MWC staff members including Len Rempel, Arli Klassen, Ron Rempel, and Kristina Toews in facilitating the ongoing ministries of MWC and supporting planning for **Pennsylvania 2015**.

### Mennonite Church Canada Opportunities

Begin to make plans to attend Pennsylvania 2015 or encourage and support representation from each MC Canada congregation.

- There are three major components to Pennsylvania 2015. These include Assembly Scattered, Assembly Gathered and the Global Youth Summit. Visit [www.mwc-cmm.org](http://www.mwc-cmm.org) and click on **Pennsylvania 2015** for more information including an invitation to host Assembly Scattered
- Support the Mennonite Church Canada high school youth as they plan to participate in the high school age program at the Assembly.
- Registration for **Pennsylvania 2015** begins August 2014. Watch for details.

### Prayers of Gratitude and Intercession

- Praise God for the 9,500 congregations around the world from 101 MWC member conferences that are seeking to be agents of God's peace and witness in their contexts.
- Praise God for the financial support of Mennonite Church Canada during 2013 with over \$70,000 contributed to MWC by MC Canada and congregations within MC Canada, plus a \$100,000 special donation by MCEC.
- Pray for César García of Colombia, MWC General Secretary, as he visits with member churches on all continents and shares God's vision for the church (Rev 7:9)
- Pray for the churches and leaders who are already preparing to host Pennsylvania 2015.
- Join the Assembly prayer network and pray for concerns like the difficult visa situation for many international participants.

Respectfully submitted by Lynn Roth, MWC North American Representative





Greetings from Mennonite Church USA, your sister to the south, on the occasion of your biennial meeting in Winnipeg. Moderator Elizabeth Soto Albrecht and I plan to be with you for the occasion, and to meet with many of you both formally and informally. We advertised your assembly across our constituency, and hope that other members of Mennonite Church USA will attend as well. In turn, we hope some of you can join us for the Mennonite Church USA convention in June 30-July 5, 2015 in Kansas City.

Because I regularly read *Canadian Mennonite*, I am aware of the values, commitments, and challenges that we share as sister churches. And I appreciate the ways that we have been able to work together. Most recently, we welcomed your former moderator Andrew Reesor-McDowell to represent Mennonite Church Canada at the March 2014 meeting of our Constituency Leaders Council. Since we were discussing some of the stresses that accompany the differences within our church regarding same-sex relationships, and since you are also engaged in discernment on this matter, it seemed appropriate have him join us for our discussion.

In 2011, we launched a new Purposeful Plan. In 2013, we updated the plan with goals for the 2013-2015 biennium. You may view an online copy of the updated plan at [www.mennoniteusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/PurposefulPlan\\_2014Feb25.pdf](http://www.mennoniteusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/PurposefulPlan_2014Feb25.pdf)

The plan highlights seven priorities which guide our work in congregations, area conferences, and agencies, as well as our national staff. Several of the goals for the biennium relate specifically to cooperative work we will do across the 49<sup>th</sup> parallel. The numbers in parentheses indicate the intended year for completion. Specifically, we have goals to:

Produce an evangelical/Anabaptist discipleship training resource in English and Spanish called “Begin Anew” (written by Palmer Becker) in cooperation with Mennonite Church Canada (2014)

- Discern the nature and scope of a possible new hymn collection in collaboration with Mennonite Church Canada and MennoMedia (2015)
- Update the Mennonite Ministers Manual in cooperation with Mennonite Church Canada and MennoMedia (2016)
- Revise the Mennonite Ministerial Polity handbook, in collaboration with Mennonite Church Canada, to reflect both current practices and aspirations of the church we are being called to become (2014)

I am pleased at the ease with which we work together across the border that divides our national expression of the church. We regularly review a Partnership Covenant and update it as needed. The latest version, dated March 28, 2013, states the following commitments of our two churches:

1. We will meet at least annually as a Joint Executive Committee (JEC) as stewards of this covenant to ensure that our partnership activities are serving our two national bodies as intended.
2. We will give and receive counsel with the intent to nurture a healthy interdependence between us and to learn from each other through discussion of our theological commitments and approach to ministry.
3. We will engage in conversation when either of us is contemplating a change

in the status of a shared foundational document such as the *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective*, Vision: Healing and Hope statement, *A Mennonite Polity for Ministerial Leadership* and our visual identity (logo). We will discern together the process that will be used to determine their ongoing life.

4. We will continue to work cooperatively in the process and review of credentialing procedures for persons in ministry, maintaining a common standard for discipline and ministerial ethics, and recognizing credentials granted on either side of the national border.
5. We will encourage each other in the pursuit of a missional vision, each within our own context. Since our two nations have distinct secular political climates and cultures, different realities will shape our priorities of witness in our member congregations and national contexts.
6. We will continue to nurture healthy partnerships, including two jointly-governed program ministries—Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary and MennoMedia. The respective by-laws of these two entities describe our two denominations’ legal articulation with these entities.
7. We will encourage the Executive Director of Mennonite Church Canada and the Executive Director of Mennonite Church USA to find ways of visually demonstrating the importance of our covenant partnership.

I trust these commitments reflect not only the will of the respective Executive Committees of our two churches, but that of our delegates as well. That is the Spirit in which we hope to continue our journey together in Christ.

Sincerely,  
Ervin R. Stutzman,  
Executive Director, MC USA



## **"CONFERENCIA MENONITA DE MEXICO" (CONFERENCE OF MENNONITES IN MEXICO) (CMM)**

The CMM currently consists of five congregations in the German speaking colonies and two Mission-congregations in the cities of Cuauhtemoc and Anahuac.

### **HIGHLIGHTS OF 2013**

One of the highlights from the last years of our conference is that we planted a new congregation in the El Valle colony. A group that lives in the colony had asked the conference to plant a church there about one and a half years ago, which we have now done. Unfortunately, there is presently no full time Minister that serves the congregation. The sermons are being given by various preachers from the conference.

### **PROJECTS THAT WE, AS A CONFERENCE, DO TOGETHER: STEINREICH BIBLE SCHOOL**

The Steinreich Bible school is managed and has been further developed by our conference in partnership with the Conferencia Misionera Evangelica (CME) (CME was created by the Mexican EMC and EMMC congregations).

This Bible School has grown a lot in the

last years and the student count is at 250 this year. Some of these students are not full-time and only take part in some of the classes.

Many young people and other adults came to faith, or grew stronger in their faith, here during the yearly three month long course.

We attribute a large part of this growth and success to the teachers from Canada. A concern we have had for a long time was how we were going to manage with our teachers since we can't always bring teachers from other countries as it has become harder and harder to find Low German speaking teachers which is necessary for this Bible School. But thanks be to God, as progress has been made concerning this already. We now have 14 teachers who come from the nearby area that teach various subjects.

### **MISSION IN CUAUHEMOC**

Our mission in the city of Cuauhtemoc is also developing further. We have one Spanish speaking mission-church that is being led by our missionary Isaak Bergen. Roughly 100 people take part regularly in these church services.

We also have a ministry where people with physical disabilities are offered work. Various things are built and then sold. Those that work there receive a part of the profit that is made. This way, a person can earn a wage from their own work. Furthermore, spiritual help is offered to them as well.

Unfortunately we are not able to offer work to all the people that ask.

We also have a kitchen and a dining room there where we provide food for children from the public school system. We also offer them classes about Christian values.

In the last year, we have also started a new work with the Tarahumara people. They are taught how to read in order to make it possible for them to read the Bible. It started on the open streets until

someone offered their house, where it is now being held. It also seems like there is a big mission field being opened up here.

The cost of the whole mission work is large and is not paid for solely by our conference, but a big part is covered by various business and government organizations.

### **DAY SCHOOL**

The Alvaro Obregon school is also making progress. There are currently 665 students registered at this school. Some of these students study in neighbouring schools but are registered in our school because they don't have their own registered schools.

For the German language, we have attained an international certificate so that students from our school can take a German language exam which, if they pass, will give them a certificate that is recognized in Germany. We are also working at attaining a similar certificate for the English language.

A lot has been done lately to strengthen the biblical teachings in this school. Currently, courses are being taught on the Old Testament, New Testament, Anabaptist History, Mission, etc. The goal is that, once students finish their diploma (grade 12), they would receive a basic biblical degree that would be recognized by other Bible Schools where they could study further.

God has already opened various doors for us, but we are also experiencing in our conference what Jesus said to His disciples in Matt. 9:37-38: "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." We also have a large ripe field before us where a lot of work can be done, but we have few workers. Therefore, let us pray together for workers for these missionfields.

Hans Giesbrecht,  
Chair, CMM

Website:  
[www.conferenciamenonitademexico.org](http://www.conferenciamenonitademexico.org)



*Sudanese Women sing at the Mennonite Church Alberta Women's Retreat*

**THE CHANGING FACE OF MENNONITE CHURCH ALBERTA**

Many of us can still remember a time when German was the first language of our home church. Today, 37.5% of Mennonite Church Alberta congregations do not use English as their first language, but rather Spanish, Mandarin, Vietnamese, Sudanese or Burmese.

We are blessed and excited to be a part of this multi-ethnic community. We are also challenged - dealing with language barriers, cultural differences and lack of resources.

Dan Graber, Mennonite Church Alberta Area Pastor, has made a point of visiting each member congregation. In doing so, he has been able to voice these congregations' cares and concerns to the MCA council.

We have also been blessed by our youth. Camp Valaqua has seen a ten percent increase in camper enrollment for the second year in a row. After fifteen months

of work, the Camp Sustainability Committee has come up with a roadmap for the future to continue this positive trend.

We have an active Women's group. They are presently preparing for their third annual retreat. The attendance at the 2013 retreat held at Sylvan Lake doubled that of 2012.

The attendance at the first annual Equipping Day hosted by Foothills Mennonite Church in Calgary surpassed all expectations. Sessions included ministry, leadership building, and a TRC workshop. That together with good food and a few good cups of coffee made it a great community building day.

We were pleased to have the Edmonton South Sudanese Mennonite Church join Mennonite Church Alberta at our recent Assembly. We were saddened that, after 80 years, Rosemary Mennonite formally withdrew their membership.

For the first time in recent history, we have passed a deficit budget. We now face the

"Today, 37.5% of Mennonite Church Alberta congregations do not use English as their first language, but rather Spanish, Mandarin, Vietnamese, Sudanese or Burmese."

challenge of balancing our programs with our resources.

We will continue to support Donna Entz in her North Edmonton ministry building bridges with the Muslim community.

MCA's support of the Federal Government Chaplaincy program ended on March 31 and will now be administered privately. We will miss the involvement in this worthwhile ministry.

Our goal for the future is to remain a thriving Christian community as we strive to remain relevant to ourselves, to our neighbours, to our friends and to our youth.

Ernie Engbrecht, Moderator,  
Mennonite Church Alberta

Mennonite Church British Columbia (MCBC) exists to help congregations be missional, vibrant and healthy and connected. To that end, our identity and purpose statement says: "MCBC is a faith community of Christian churches with a passionate allegiance to Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Our purpose is to enable congregations to individually and collectively engage most fully in the mission of Christ". We are engaged in living in "wild hope, faith for an unknown season."

Moving forward into this unknown season, we are looking at how God is calling us to be together. To that end we have begun a reimagining discernment process which will include surveys, focus groups, a retreat and a proposal to be brought forward to our February 2015 annual delegate sessions. This will be to discover how best to move forward in this 21st century culture that we live in. How will we continue to be missional, vibrant and healthy and connected? What does it mean to be faithful people of God in our 21st Century context with regard to our central purpose for being together and to the structure that animates that reason for being? In the words of Soren Kierkegaard, "hope is passion for what is possible."

In the fall of 2013, a Special Delegate Assembly looked at the area of finances. It was a morning of vibrant discussion and open dialogue with the finance committee and their proposed budget. This informed the budget which was then passed at the delegate assembly in February, a day of worship focussed on the key areas of ministry around three questions: what excites you about the work you are involved with, what challenges you and how can we pray for you. Table talks and prayer times were highlights of the day.

We have engaged Brander McDonald as Indigenous Relations Coordinator for a further three years and continue to work together on our relationships with the first peoples who are our neighbours,



*MCBC continues to work together on relationships with first peoples.*

exemplifying the gospel in both word and deed. Training sessions on First Nations Worldview help to inform us for this challenge. This helps calm the waters of fear and misunderstanding. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Vancouver was a marker in the wild hope journey as many MCBC folks joined in the various events and listening circles, giving witness to the truth and praying for reconciliation and healing to continue.

The relationship with FORGE Canada continues to encourage us to develop our missionality. Training sessions, missional coaching and workshops are part of this package. Congregations are invited to move through a sequence of provoking, equipping and multiplying.

We celebrate a Mandarin church plant, Living Stones Mennonite Christian Church in Surrey under the leadership of Jonathan and Grace Deng, which began worship services on Easter Sunday, 2013 and continues to move forward in meeting their 2014 goals of "discipleship" and "organization."

The 31 congregations in MCBC worship in eleven different languages and reach into neighbourhoods around our beautiful

province, sharing words and deeds of hope and reconciliation as we journey in "wild hope," strengthening the connective tissue between us.

Hope is the thing with feathers  
that perches in the soul-  
and sings the tune without the words -  
and never stops at all.  
- Emily Dickinson



Lee Dyck, Moderator,  
Mennonite Church British Columbia

**Scattered and Sown: In Every Seed**

**A Promise** - the theme for this 25th anniversary year of MCEC ministry. It has been a year of celebration, new seeds, and growth. The stories below tell of God's movement within the wonderfully diverse garden known as MCEC.

**Seeds of Celebration** - MCEC turned 25 this year and we celebrated like any 25-year-old would - a party with singing, dancers, speakers, and even cake! We remembered our past and began to dream and discern how God is calling us to position ourselves to move into the next 25 years of service and ministry.

**New Seeds** - Many seeds are planted throughout the year as together we extend the peace of Jesus Christ through making disciples, growing congregations, and forming leaders.

- **Anabaptist Christian Resource Starter Kits** bring Anabaptist resources to new congregations so leaders and families can grow in their identity as Anabaptists. Multi-age Sunday school curriculum, books from the *Believer's Church Bible Commentary* series, and a number of children's books around the theme of peace are included in each kit. "We are still learning what it means to be Mennonite," says Chinda Kommala, co-pastor of Lao Canadian Evangelical Mennonite Church. "These books are helpful for all of our people."
- **Young Adult Leadership Development** was nurtured as 80 people from across MCEC gathered at a "Red Letter Dinner" with Shane Claiborne, Tony Campolo, Colin McCartney, and MCEC ministers to discern together how God's Spirit is speaking to this generation of leaders. MCEC continues to support young leaders within our community of congregations to further explore what it means to live according to Jesus' words and example.

- **Faith and Leadership Formation** are exciting aspects of MCEC ministry. At this year's Make a Difference Day, 160 junior youth and leaders met to discover ways that faith makes a difference in daily life, this year focusing on faith and food. Over one hundred pastors gathered at School for Ministers to grapple with scriptural violence in the book of Joshua, and congregational leaders entered into enthusiastic dialogue around communion and the 21<sup>st</sup> century Mennonite church.

**Seeds of Growth** - Three new congregations were received into membership this year. With a passion to love the Lord and be a living witness of God's resurrection, *Bethel Ethiopian Evangelical Church* reaches into their Amharic speaking community in Kitchener. *Medahnialem Ethiopian Evangelical Church* in Toronto follows their call from God to introduce the Ethiopian/Eritrean community to God so that lives can be restored. *The Commons* are a diverse people who gather together to actively and intentionally participate in their Hamilton neighbourhood.

**Seeds of Harvest and New Growth** - Over the past year, the hard work that went into planting seeds for new office space for MCEC ministries has come to fruition. We are now part of the community of Mennonite/Anabaptist tenants at 50 Kent Avenue, Kitchener, ON. This move will present new ministry partnership opportunities with other organizations that share the facility and make it easier for congregations to access a variety of resources.

We continue to be challenged as we engage our communities and the wider world with the peace of Jesus Christ.

David Martin, Executive Minister, MCEC



*When Grace New Life Mennonite Church in Hamilton received an Anabaptist Christian Resource Starter Kit, the children eagerly took one of the children's books home with a promise to exchange it for a new one the following week!*

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL:**

Sandy Shantz (Moderator),  
 Bryce Kraeker (Assistant Moderator),  
 Terry Keller, Sharon Lamont, Pieter Niemeyer,  
 Brian Quan, Shirley Redekop, Eugene Reesor,  
 Paul Wideman

**MCEC STAFF:**

David Martin (Executive Minister),  
 Brian Bauman (Mission Minister),  
 Linda Brnjas (Regional Minister),  
 Brent Charette (Church Engagement Minister),  
 Marianne Mellinger (Coordinator of Leadership Formation),  
 Mollee Moua (Administrative Assistant),  
 Henry Paetkau (Area Church Minister),  
 Ester Neufeldt (Operations Minister),  
 Margaret Oakey (Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant),  
 Al Rempel (Regional Minister),  
 Joan Schooley (Administrative Assistant),  
 Jeff Steckley (Congregational Ministries Minister),  
 Liz Weber (Administrative Assistant),  
 Lisa Williams (Director of Communications)



*In 2013, MCM was pleased to host the Fat Calf Festival for youth from across Canada.*

*For here we have no lasting city, but we are looking for the city that is to come. -Hebrews 13:14*

We, as Mennonite Church Manitoba, can attest to the truth and relevance of this affirmation on the basis of our observations and experiences over the past year. It is evident that much of what we have built up here will not last but together we have been looking for that which is to come. And whatever we will build now and in the future will also not be lasting. Yet we look for the ever-lasting principles willed by God and we are committed to building according to these.

At the outset of 2013 we identified four key areas to which we would give priority in trying to find God’s will for MCM: our denominational identity and structure, our camping ministries, our conversation about sexuality, and our evangelism and service ministries. How far did we come in our discernment process on these vital issues?

We integrated our search for the future direction of our denomination’s identity and structure and for our conversation about sexuality with the processes coordinated by Mennonite Church Canada. Stuart Murray-Williams, the keynote speaker at our 2013 Annual Gathering, provided wisdom for grappling with these issues.

After much study, consultation, pondering, debate, and prayer, MCM, at its Annual Gathering on March 1, affirmed the importance of our camping ministry, acknowledged our over-capacity in facilities, and authorized the board to find organizations which would purchase two of our camp properties and then partner with MCM. The MCM board was also mandated to spell out a vision for camping ministries under this new structure at our fall gathering.

To facilitate discernment at the grassroots of MCM on sexuality and on evangelism and service ministries, there will be another round of regional cluster meetings in spring 2014.

Even as we have deliberated on these key issues, our congregations, pastors, staff, and volunteers have infused our ongoing ministries with faith, hope and love. Some highlights are:

- Fourteen pastors transitioned into new roles; eight of them beginning in pastoral ministry.
- The Faith and Life Women’s Chorus sang in many churches in Europe on its first overseas tour.
- MCM leaders in youth ministry hosted the lively Fat Calf Festival for 300 Canadian youth.
- Almost 1000 campers – including

ca. 200 adults with disabilities – experienced caring and supportive camping at Camps Assiniboia, Moose Lake and Koinonia, focusing on “Peace.”

- Partnership Circles brought congregations from First Nations in northern Manitoba together with congregations in the south in various ventures and at the annual circle gathering resourced by Ovide Mercredi, former national chief.
- Chiara House, a project for affordable and safe housing in a supportive community, advanced toward completion with collaboration between MCM, the Little Flowers Community, Eden Health Services, a company of visionary and generous investors, and dozens of volunteers.

We are truly being blessed by God as “we look for the city that is to come.”

Peter Rempel, Moderator, Mennonite Church Manitoba



In his report to the Annual Delegate Assembly of Mennonite Church Saskatchewan in Regina on March 14, 2014, moderator George Epp departed from his scripted comments and chose instead to remind delegates of the scope and consequence of what the 31 churches of MC Saskatchewan have done and are doing. He included reference to our camps, for instance, including the spring ice jam on the North Saskatchewan that ruined the vital chalet building, and how membership rose up under MDS leadership and completed reconstruction on time for the summer camping program. He shared an experience at the Youth Farm Bible Camp during a camp week for mentally challenged adults as an example of MC Sask people responding to Christ's calling to compassionate care for the less fortunate.

He went on to emphasize the importance of our commitment to the elderly and the handicapped as expressed in the legacy of the Mennonite Nursing Home and Pineview, the current reconstruction of what will be called Averon Prairie Place, an assisted living complex formerly known as the Mennonite Home for the Aged. Reference was made to the prison visitation, Circles of Support and Accountability and chaplaincy missions in Saskatoon, Prince Albert and Regina, their history of service to the broader community and the challenges they face in light of reduced federal funding.

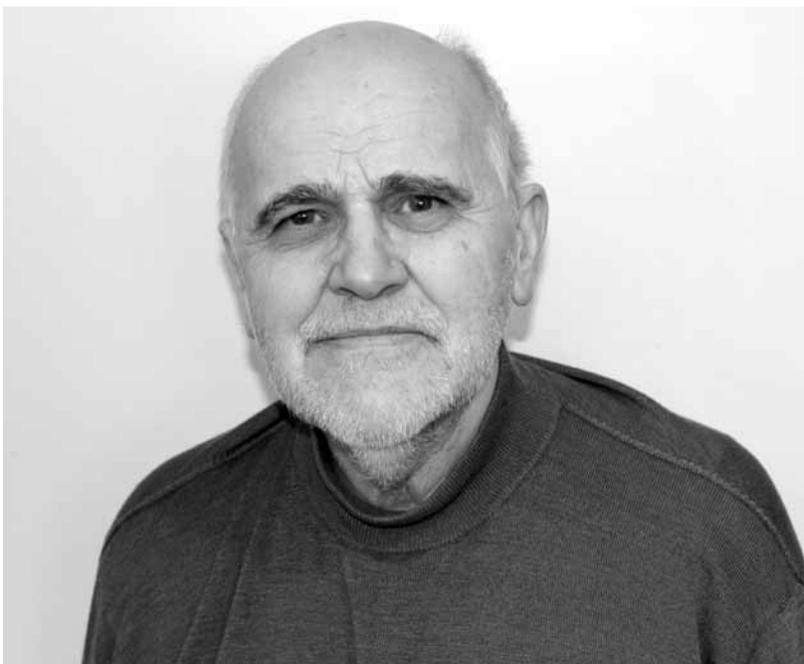
Delegates passed a number of resolutions including a motion of support for the Mennonite Youth Farm Complex Board to begin work on the eventual construction of a personal care facility to be attached to the Pineview assisted living wing of the Nursing Home complex. For the first time in a number of years, treasurer Ken Warkentin presented a financial report with a \$25,000 surplus and delegates approved its deposit to reserves. Another motion ratified the Safe Church Policy of MC Sask and declined to refer a section on non-discrimination in participation and in hiring (including on the basis of sexual orientation) back to council for further study.

A substantial delegation from the newly-formed Saskatoon Vietnamese Mennonite Church reminded us that the future of MC Sask may well look different from the past, as regards ethnicity of the membership, at least.

Future challenges were acknowledged: Curtailment of government funding to COSA and P2P type programs demands that we rethink our commitment to these efforts, and probably also that we broaden their sponsorship to boost revenues and broaden the volunteer base. The surplus in our financial report for 2013 doesn't mean we're free and clear; it arose largely through staff transitions and won't necessarily persist as an annual occurrence and giving from churches and individuals must increase at least at the rate of inflation.

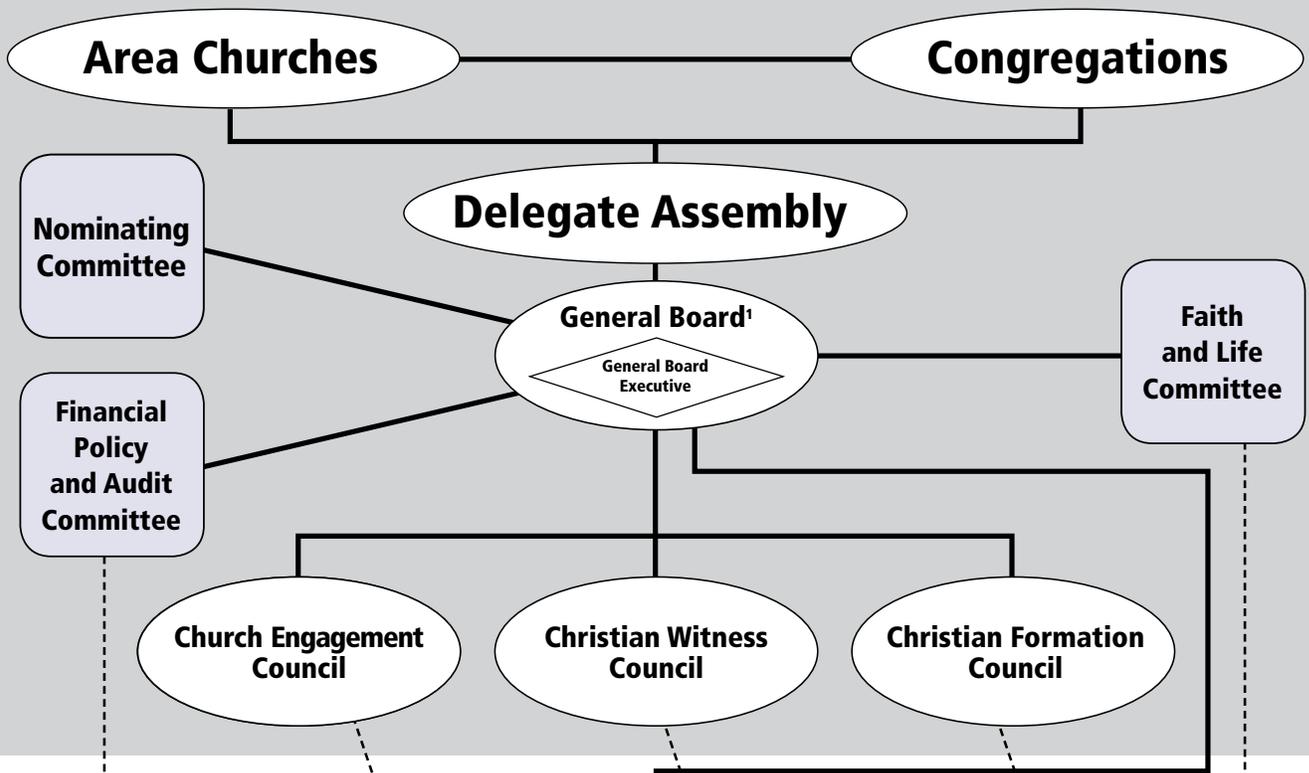
A highlight was welcoming new staff: Kirsten Hamm was presented for licensing as Area Church Youth Minister followed by an anointing for service and prayers of dedication. Financial and Office Administrator Marianne Siemens was welcomed by the delegate body and the assembly unanimously extended their thanks to Char Bueckert and Anna Rehan for their assistance in the transitions.

George Epp was thanked by the assembly for his leadership as moderator and as a final act, he handed over a memory stick of files of the last two years to incoming moderator, Gerhard Luitjens.

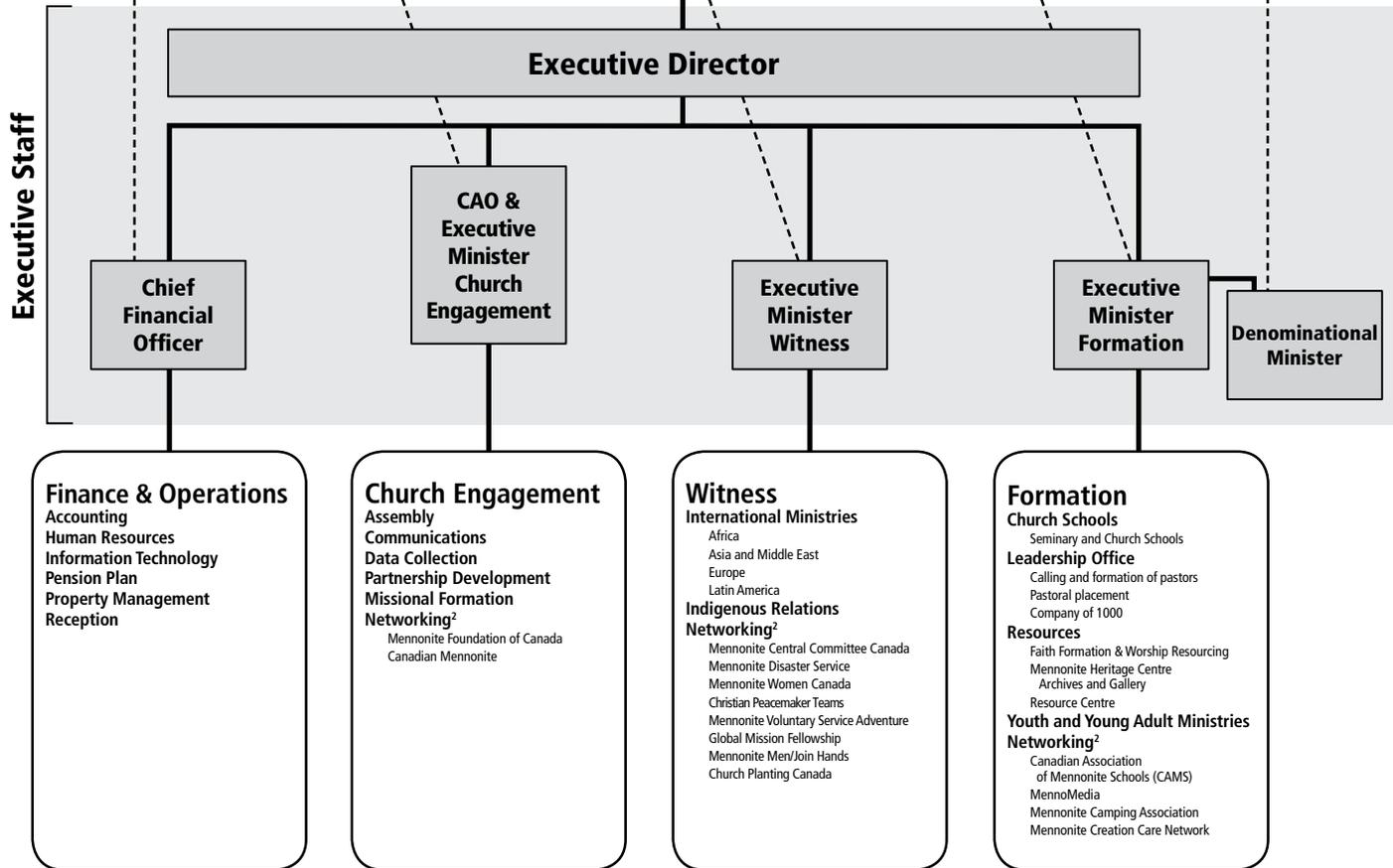


Submitted by George Epp, Moderator,  
Mennonite Church Saskatchewan

# LEADERSHIP



# MINISTRY



1. The General Board is responsible for relationships with Mennonite World Conference, the Canadian Council of Churches, the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada and other inter-church relations, Mennonite Church USA, CCAL and other national Mennonite Churches.

2. These ministries are related to Mennonite Church Canada, usually through the appointment of board members, but are shared with other partners.

Current as of: March 2014

## Christian Formation Mandate

Within the vision and priorities of Mennonite Church Canada and in partnership with area churches and their congregations, Christian Formation nurtures congregations, fosters commitment to the larger church, grows disciples, forms leaders, and promotes Anabaptist identity formation, in order to participate in God's work in the world.

Good stories stir our imaginations and provoke our passions. Story-tellers like Stuart McLean (Vinyl Café) and Garrison Keillor (Prairie Home Companion) have spent their entire lives perfecting their art. Listening to them ply their craft regularly inspires us with the power of a well-told story.

The church too, has a compelling story – one with real-life actors – unlike the fictional characters of Dave and Morley or the created community of Lake Wobegon that we so enjoy hearing about from McLean and Keillor.

Mennonite Church Canada also has an engaging story about a richly diverse community that holds together an array of unique and uniquely-gifted individuals, congregations, area churches, and a national church. Each adds to the evolving plot line of the whole with inspiration, substance and depth; each complements the gifts of the other.

Christian Formation at the national church level adds the colour and texture that helps us as a church become what we are meant to be. We do this by creating and developing resources and connecting our congregations and area churches to the resources, networks and learning opportunities that will enrich the spiritual life of the whole faith community, helping us to grow stronger and better prepared to serve.

### HOW WE WORK

Christian Formation approaches its work from three important vantage points:

- How can we help the church in ways that no other part of the church is currently engaging?
- How can we inspire and enable the passions and energies of others across the church?
- How can we facilitate our rich networks of people, gifts and resources for the good of sharing the gospel?

### FORMATION BUDGETS:

Fiscal Year Ending 2013 (Net): \$627,101  
 Fiscal Year Ending 2014 (Net): \$644,543  
 Fiscal Year Ending 2015 (Net): \$655,535

Christian Formation serves the whole church, engaging key areas of activity for which we are uniquely situated from our national church vantage point. These activities help enable the passions and energies of others and build networks that enrich the whole church:

1. Leadership development (for pastors and other church leaders, on behalf of congregations and area churches)
2. Bible resources and spiritual nurture (for everyone, through our well-equipped Resource Centre)
3. Collecting, storing, and sharing our Mennonite and Anabaptist story in the Mennonite Heritage Centre Archives (MHC) (for families, congregations, area churches, and Mennonite conferences and related church bodies)
4. Connecting artists, athletes, and historians (through the MHC Art Gallery, a series of videos focused on sport and our Anabaptist faith values, and the MHC, respectively)
5. Planning and preparing worship and spiritually rich experiences that create open spaces to become aware of the movement of the Holy Spirit and to listen to God's leading (for pastors and congregants at national church and national youth assemblies)



*Annika Krause received assistance from Mennonite Church Canada's Company of 1000 education fund to study at AMBS. - photo by Steve Echols*

### SERVING THROUGH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Leadership Development helps the church reinforce its core beliefs so that we can faithfully be the church in an Anabaptist way. If we didn't pay careful attention to the healthy and holistic development of our leaders there would be no cohesive way of ensuring best Anabaptist practice across the church. Although the church is diverse, both across congregations and among those who minister as leaders, we lift up the unique gifts we bring as a Mennonite people, to the whole body of Christ.

Through our Leadership Commission team, representing post-secondary schools, the area church, and the national church, we are having lively and important conversations about the kind of leadership congregations need for this time of great change in the church and exploring ways to equip for this change.

A bi-national team of area church and conference ministers is updating a Ministerial Credentialing, Competency and Education (2010) document. While the title may sound dry, this framework of six core areas provides guidance for ongoing leadership development and can have a significant impact on strengthening what happens in congregational ministry, from calling a pastor, to how the pastor serves each week from the office to the pulpit and all points in between so that the congregation is equipped for engaging its local context and shifting cultural contexts.

Research has shown that the first two years of pastoral experience are critical to a pastor's decision to stay or leave ministry. Transitioning into Ministry (TiM) is an online leadership coaching and support program inspired by an established TiM initiative in Mennonite Church Eastern Canada. This program for new pastors is designed to help them reflect on ministry experiences with peers and an experienced pastor coach in order to develop habits of resourcefulness to sustain them in ministry.

Leadership Development also means networking with our schools. Christian Formation understands our Mennonite church schools as critical to the future of the church. Schools are windows into the future, offering a unique contribution to the mission of the church. Because this is where many pastors and other church leaders receive their training, we are intentional about, and committed to, our partnership with our schools. This is where imagination and faith come together to help the church be equipped for the challenges of the future.

- Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary: AMBS has redesigned its M. Div. program, reducing it to a more condensed 80 credit hours, in response to changing student and church needs. Since Fall 2013, the M.Div. is now also available by distance education. AMBS is also exploring a multi-vocational approach for mission and social entrepreneurial outreach and offering a growing diversity of continuing education options for pastors and lay leaders.
- Canadian Mennonite University: Through CMU, a church-related university, we are investing in students and the church. We have a seat at the table of the Advisory Council



A significant part of Leadership Development work includes matching pastors with congregations. In 2013, our office processed 29 MLIs (Ministerial Leadership Information forms), which is similar to past years, with the following placements made:

- Lead pastors: 16
- Associate pastors: 10
- Youth pastors: 2
- Interim pastors: 12
- Assistant pastors: 1
- Part-time pastors: 1
- Co-pastors: 0

of GSTM (Graduate Studies in Theology and Ministry), which is training a growing number of pastors who serve our congregations. We also help shape *Vision*, a leadership journal of CMU and AMBS, which is committed to enriching the theological and spiritual diet of our leaders.

- Conrad Grebel University College (CGUC) and Columbia Bible College (CBC): Links with these two schools are maintained through regular dialogue with presidents and deans, and through regular sharing of program and event information.
- We connect with CGUC, CBC, and CMU in regards to students exploring ministry, through the Ministry Inquiry Program where we help students find a congregational placement for their pastoral internship.

- In addition, we have created a brochure, *Mennonite Education, Real Faith for Real Life*, which names the value of Mennonite education to the church, and promotes our 13 Mennonite schools from kindergarten up to post secondary institutions. Each school we relate to is named and linked with a web site address.

Polity is a word used to describe how we organize ourselves and manage our affairs as a church. Mennonite Church Canada, together with Mennonite Church USA, maintains a Ministers' Polity Manual for leaders to help provide guidance and consistency in church life. This manual has

been under review and revision for some time, and is currently at the Draft Four stage. The new title is *A Shared Understanding of Church Leadership: Polity Manual for Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church USA*.

Leadership Development helps financially assist pastors and pastoral candidates in Canada and abroad to prepare for and strengthen ministry. Through our Company of 1000 assistance fund, eight recipients received \$31,500 in 2013: six studying at the graduate level, one in a doctor of theology program, and one pastor pursuing Biblical storytelling training. We also tithe a portion of the yearly donations (\$4500) to international leadership development. In Colombia, these funds were added to the program funds that Mennonite Church Canada gives to the Biblical Seminary for the formation of pastors and other church leaders. In Congo, two women received scholarships for theological studies in preparation for ministry with the CEM, the Evangelical Community of Congo.

**OUR INVENTORY (AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2013):**

Over 11,000 resources...

Books: 6,770

Online videos: 500+

DVDs/Online videos: 845

External Website resources: 779

Electronic/Downloadable resources: 2,245

Audio resources: 282

**MISC. STATS**

Average annual loan circulation: 3,300 loaned items

Average annual downloadable resources (last 2 years): 100,000

Resource Update subscribers: 1,132

**SERVING THE CHURCH WITH BIBLE AND SPIRITUAL NURTURE RESOURCES**

A very significant ministry of Christian Formation is brought to life through the Resource Centre. The Resource Centre is your one stop shop: You can buy, borrow, and download curated Anabaptist/ Mennonite books, DVDs, and more via an online presence as well as a physical shop. The Resource Centre offers a host of practical tools that strengthen faith and witness, offer insight, oversight and direction that help the church realize its call to be formed daily into the likeness of Jesus Christ.

In the last two years we have redesigned and made significant improvements to the Resource Centre web site. We urge you to explore it: <http://resources.mennonitechurch.ca>

E-Books: Our borrowers are expressing increased interest in e-book materials. However, there are a number of complexities that are challenging for an operation of our size to overcome. These are just a few:

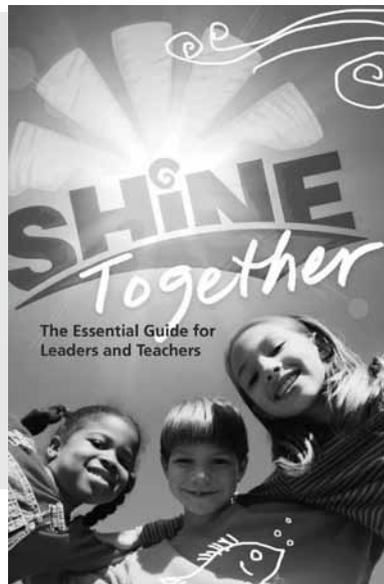
- As a national centre with borrowers from across the country, licensing agreements are difficult and complicated to procure.
- Offering an e-book service is costly.
- Popular titles are more likely to be available in e-book format than items from niche publishers. Much of our holdings fall into the niche category.

We remain interested in offering e-books but so far we have been unable to expand in that direction. However, we are staying abreast with developments in e-book technology.

**SERVING CONGREGATIONS AND FAMILIES**

A mark of our time is that many parents are leaving the spiritual formation of children and families to the church, Sunday School teachers, clubs, camps, and youth groups.

In many busy families, grandparents are increasingly taking on the roles of shared parenting. The book *Please Pass the Faith: The Art of Spiritual Grandparenting*, by Elsie Rempel, has sold nearly



1,000 copies. Elsie has visited many congregations across Canada to encourage spiritual grandparenting.

Participating in events like the Children, Youth and a New Kind of Christianity Conference, an event focused on nurturing the faith of children and youth, helps inspire church leaders for effective ministry in our post-Christendom context. We have facilitated and helped financially support a limited number of spots at this event for children's ministry leaders.

We are excited to announce SHINE!, the coming, new Sunday School curriculum produced in partnership with our publishing ministry, MennoMedia, and MC USA. We contributed \$10,000 in seed money to help with the creation and production costs of this important new faith-building resource for the children of the church. We encourage everyone to become acquainted with this fresh, accessible, Biblically-rooted curriculum, and to order it for your congregation's Christian Formation ministry. We are planning a set of training workshops together with MennoMedia for the fall.

**FROM RESOURCE CENTRE USERS...**

*"Thanks so much for the list. I am always impressed with your knowledge of the books you stock." (Saskatchewan)*

*"One key feature of your (our) Resource Centre that I especially appreciate is that it is so well linked and interconnected. I think of it as a hub." (Ontario)*

*"You make being a Mennonite a bit more fun and meaningful. Keep up the good work." (British Columbia)*

We have also been developing Advent and Lent At Home booklets for use in family worship during these two important seasons of the church calendar. The invented, child-friendly characters of Chris and Selah illustrate these booklets and accompany parents and children on their journeys through Advent and Lent. More recently, we have developed Chris and Selah action figures, which by extension, have found their way into two new videos that help children connect with the international ministries of MC Canada. In one video, the camera follows Chris and Selah on a journey to typhoon-ravaged Philippines. In another, they visit a sustainable aquaponics pilot project to learn about and transfer

eco-friendly, small-scale farming technology to entrepreneurs in the global south. (See [www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/2317](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/2317) for an overview of Chris and Selah resources.) Two new videos are in production for release later this year. We also have a staff representative who participates in Mennonite Camping Association which links camps and camping ministry in Canada and the USA.

For congregations, we continue to develop Special Sunday worship materials for 10 Sundays throughout the year. These worship resources highlight and draw us back to our core values and ministries. Children's Story resources developed around the lectionary themes are also available to congregations.

Elsie Rempel, our Faith Formation Consultant, has been blogging on a wide variety of topics related to family and faith. *Elsie Spins a Blog: faith bytes for all ages and sages* (<http://elsiehannahruth.wordpress.com/>) focuses on the faith in the first and last third of life. She has also been actively building an audience on Facebook.

Presently under consideration is a downloadable booklet on how to include children meaningfully in communion services. Finding a place of appropriate participation for the un-baptized younger set is an increasingly important aspect of welcoming and nurturing young people into adulthood and church membership.

Elsie is also the Facilitator of Children's Assembly planning, a part of our biennial adult assemblies.

**SERVING THE CHURCH BY COLLECTING, PRESERVING, AND SHARING OUR MENNONITE/ANABAPTIST HISTORY**

The Mennonite Heritage Centre Archives is a national history treasure – and not just for Mennonites. We were pleased to cooperate with the National War Museum in Ottawa to launch a 2013 exhibit, *Peace, The Exhibition*. The MHC contribution told the story of conscientious objection. Without a nationally-based church institution with a mandate to preserve Mennonite history, this opportunity to tell a story of war resistance in such a public place may never have arisen.

We continue to offer presentations in public and private schools,

**2014 INVENTORY:**

- Archivist Conrad Stoesz calculates that, if stacked, all the records in the MHC Archives would be taller than the CN Tower in Toronto.
- 5,706 Volumes (boxes) of documents
- 700 Photograph Collections
- 28,608 Photo Descriptions
- 1,269 Maps
- 1,317 Reel to Reel Recordings
- 4,870 Cassette Tapes
- 69 Films
- 557 Video Recordings
- 1,387 Microfilm reels
- 268 Digital Media (cdfs/DVDs)

and churches, about the history and untold story of Mennonite conscientious objection to war.

The MHC contains the stories of thousands of Mennonites and families of Russian/ Prussian background. In the coming years it will also begin to house the stories of Mennonites from Asia, Africa, and Latin and South America who have immigrated to Canada and joined the Mennonite family here. This is both exciting and overwhelming. Where will we find space to safely store and preserve this growing national treasure? And how can we share this ministry of inspiring others through the sharing of our own faith legacy?

As the new director of the Mennonite Heritage Centre Archives and Gallery, Korey Dyck brings a big vision for the MHC. His predecessor, Alf Redekopp, made huge strides in computerizing and standardizing the many collections in the archives during his 19 years of dedicated service to the Centre (Alf retired in 2013). "The next step in the development of the centre is having enough virtual and physical space to dream again. With

increased capacity, the Heritage Centre can develop more research projects and host more cultural events. In the past, the archives has excelled at collecting our faith heritage. For the future, the centre needs to enhance its capacity to share this heritage with others. We haven't even begun to tap into our potential for faith formation."

The existing facility is at 80% of storage capacity. Korey is preparing a plan to fund and expand storage capacity of church and family histories he knows will arrive in boxes on the

doorstep of the MHC in the coming years.

Organizing, cataloguing, and digitizing incoming records remains a significant task. Staff (we have no volunteer archivists) have years of work ahead of them so that this history treasure can be made accessible for congregations, researchers, genealogists, and others.



*Chris and Selah are the key characters of Advent and Lent At Home family worship booklets.*

## CONNECTING

This past year a young filmmaker approached Mennonite Church Canada seeking assistance to produce a series of short films for kids. Paul Plett is passionate about the church, and spoke enthusiastically about how his life has been shaped by the energetic youth ministry in the congregation of his youth. Plett is producing *Kid Shorts*, a video series, re-telling well known Christian stories in a modern day context, told from the perspective of a child. His audience is kids – Sunday School and public school kids. While we could not help Paul with funding, we could help him by providing the networks to make connections with schools, and some meeting room space for casting calls and tryouts. Staff also assisted with a study guide for the first film in this project, *Dave vs. the Bully*. You can find it all at [www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/2299](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/2299).

Converting traditional media (print, audio recordings, film) to digitized form is a necessary step – and an enormous challenge if we want to make our history relevant for faith formation and more widely accessible. For example, it would take approximately \$200,000 to transfer our traditional media holdings to a digital format, not including increased computer server fees and the staff time to index it.

We have begun this process of content digitization. We have initiated the Canadian Mennonite Archives Photo Database Project in concert with the Mennonite Archives of Ontario and the Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies to create an online repository for storing over 90,000 photographs currently housed individually by various Mennonite archival centres across Canada.

To generate operating income the MHC also sells new and used books. Book sales are now accessible online using PayPal. We also partner with the Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies in publishing the *Mennonite Historian*, a quarterly magazine published continuously for 38 years.

In association with the International Development Studies (IDS) program of CMU, we have become a partner in a new on-going venture with the CMU Farmers' Collective, Food Matters Manitoba, and the Métis Horticulture & Heritage Society to launch the Indigenous-Led Heritage Seed Library Project. The MHC will contribute refrigerated repository space and dissemination of findings. The goal is to preserve vegetable species/seeds which are becoming extinct due to limited selection and growth by large multi-national food corporations. In a sense this is a revival of history as told through food.

A further initiative in development is the potential addition of

You are encouraged to explore this list of faith-forming resources and connect with ones that stir your interest via [www.mennonitechurch.ca](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca):

- **Equipping: a 10x/year mailing to all congregations, chock-full of information, news, and inspiration**
- **FaithBytes** – weekly blog on Formation themes, by Elsie Rempel.
- **Canvass**—bi-monthly newsletter highlighting the work of MHC Art Gallery
- **Mennonite Historian**—quarterly publication of Mennonite history
- **Resource Centre and Resource Update** - Your 10x/year curated compendium of book, DVD, and online resources
- **Special Sunday worship materials**—worship resources for 10 Sundays through the year, drawing us back to our core values and ministries
- **Children's worship materials**
- **Advent and Lent At Home worship booklets** – especially for families
- **Chris and Selah videos** – introducing children to Mennonite Church Canada projects
- **Speakers' Bureau**—listings and bios of staff available for speaking/teaching engagements
- **Shine! Living in God's light** – we are joint shapers and owners of this new Sunday School curriculum for age 3 to grade 8, spearheaded by our publishing partner, MennoMedia.
- **Promote Mennonite education** –education poster and brochure highlighting the value of education in our Anabaptist/Mennonite schools. Request some for your church.
- A financial literacy video series entitled **Making Change** – targeting youth and young adults, to be distributed through the Resource Centre and participating organizations. Produced in collaboration with MCEC, MFC, MAX Insurance, Mennonite Savings and Credit Union, MEDA, and others.

Coming up:

- **Sport and Faith** – a series of YouTube conversations linking faith, sports, and leadership matters within the context of Christian faith and the church. A September 2014 launch is anticipated. In partnership with MCEC.



*An inter-faith evening at the Mennonite Heritage Centre Art Gallery gathered Cree United Church elder, Jewish and Muslim lawyers, Hindu dancers, Mennonites, and others to focus on peace, on community and on art and music that transcends language. - photo by Janet Plenert*

a series of oral history video interviews regarding immigrants to Canada, sponsored through Mennonite Central Committee Canada in the 1970's. The archives is currently discussing the transfer of this material from the Conflict Resolution Studies (CRS) program of Menno Simons College, the CMU campus in downtown Winnipeg.

### **ART AS MINISTRY**

The Mennonite Heritage Centre contains within it an Art Gallery that not only connects artists with a Mennonite/Anabaptist spiritual heritage, but extends our faith by reaching out to artists of other Christian expressions and faith traditions.

The artistic community in Manitoba, across Canada, and around the world holds our Art Gallery in high regard for its ecumenical and interfaith work. This gallery is as much or more about faith as about art. Some exhibits have travelled and received national and even international exposure. If you have attended a national church assembly, you have likely feasted your eyes on art from one or more exhibits.

In 2012-13, events and exhibits have been well attended. There have been many strongly supportive and encouraging comments. The gallery's reputation continues to grow both in the church and

in the wider community. Curator Ray Dirks says, "My hope is that the unique work of the gallery, in all its many directions, has been and will continue to be what God wants it to be. Many doors have been opened because of the gallery and I pray many more will open in the future."

### **PLANNING AND PREPARING NATIONAL CHURCH AND NATIONAL YOUTH ASSEMBLIES**

The Fat Calf Festival – a youth assembly (July 29-August 3, 2013) was an outstanding success. Three hundred and twenty youth and sponsors from across Canada plus 50 onsite camp staff gathered at Camp Assiniboia to immerse themselves in the 'lost and found' parable of two sons

and a father (Luke 15:11-32). 'God loves you and he wants you to live life with him' was the message left with participants.

We thank God for the favourable weather throughout the week which helped produce an overall participant and leader experience that exceeded expectations. The Fat Calf planning team, a group of Mennonite Church Manitoba youth pastors together with Kathy Giesbrecht (MCM Assoc. Director of Leadership Ministries) and Dorothy Fontaine (Event Coordinator) brought a high level of energy, planning wisdom, and on the ground experience to the event.

Responses from participants were overwhelmingly positive with most citing the worship experiences as a particular highlight. 98.7% of the 75 respondents rated their overall experience as either Awesome (5 out of 5) or very good (4 out of 5).

Before leaving, attendees were invited to begin anticipating the next Mennonite Church Canada youth assembly, in conjunction with, and as part of, the Mennonite World Conference Assembly in 2015 in Harrisburg, PA.

Adult Assembly planning and preparation is a significant and worthwhile endeavour. This important gathering of the church

from across Canada gives everyone the unique opportunity to experience the joy and rich diversity of being together as one great family of faith. Those attending Assembly 2014 can anticipate a spiritually enriching, faith building, relationship strengthening event, through worship, music, teaching, preaching, praying, and sharing. Children will enjoy play and camp activities on the CMU campus. Older children will get a camp-like experience at nearby Camp Assiniboia. We look forward to welcoming many Youth Ambassadors sent by their congregations to this assembly. This is an opportunity for adults and youth to engage in conversations about faith and Christian life, in the context of a fully featured national church family gathering.

Initial discussions for Assembly 2016 in Saskatchewan have already begun.

### **RESOURCE CENTRE AND CMU BOOKSTORE: BETTER TOGETHER**

Since our last report to you in the Assembly 2012 Report Book, there has been a major (and exciting!) development related to Mennonite Church Canada's Resource Centre and Canadian Mennonite University's Bookstore: beginning in late fall of 2014, the two will be operating as a new, integrated ministry, out of a shared space in CMU's new Learning Commons building presently under construction.

These two complementary services will function with shared, cross-trained staff from a physical space purposely-designed for the sale, loan, and sharing of books, DVDs, merchandise, and more. The collaboration will enable longer hours for the on-site Resource Centre and an enhanced online presence for the CMU Bookstore. Walk-in customers will be able to be served from one location on the campus. A café in an adjacent space will encourage lingering and browsing – and be a welcoming meeting place for the surrounding community and a public forum for online conversations addressing vital matters of faith and life.

At the time of writing, a name for the combined Resource Centre/Book Store is in the proposal stage. We expect to announce the new name soon.

Congregations are invited to be part of a story wall that will acknowledge their support of this new initiative. Any congregation that gifts \$1000 over three years (that's just \$333.33/year) will have its name added to an acknowledgement plaque on a wall beside the new Resource Centre/Bookstore. Please consider being part of this exciting story!

### **ORGANIZATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS**

On the following pages you will find reports from the ministries of our schools, camps, and other faith formation organizations with whom Christian Formation also works.

### **STAFF & COUNCIL**

The Christian Formation Council and Formation staff are committed to help grow a church with mature and maturing faith, and a vibrant witness. But we do not do this alone. We give leadership to the work under our care on behalf of the church. We share with you both the challenge and privilege of this important ministry. We are grateful for and depend on your prayers, your counsel, your gifts, and your involvement. Together let us continue to be faithful to the challenges the Spirit of God has set before us!

### **FORMATION STAFF:**

Dave Bergen, Executive Minister  
Lois Bergen, Executive Assistant to the Executive Minister, Formation and the Denominational Minister  
Ray Dirks, Curator, Mennonite Heritage Centre Gallery  
Korey Dyck, Director, Mennonite Heritage Centre Archives and Gallery  
Arlyn Friesen Epp, Resource Centre Director  
Karen Martens Zimmerly, Denominational Minister  
Elsie Rempel, Formation Consultant  
Conrad Stoesz, Archivist, Mennonite Heritage Centre  
Miriam Tshimanga Maenhout, Administrative Assistant, Resource Centre  
Connie Wiebe, Administrative Assistant, Mennonite Heritage Centre & Gallery

### **CHRISTIAN FORMATION COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

Lisa Carr-Pries (chair, General Board member), Ontario  
David Driedger, Manitoba  
Joon Park, British Columbia  
Earl Reimer (General Board member), Manitoba  
Rebecca Seiling, Ontario  
Adela Wedler, Alberta  
Tom Yoder Neufeld, Ontario

Submitted by



Lisa Carr-Pries, Chair,  
Christian Formation Council



Dave Bergen, Executive Minister,  
Christian Formation

“There is an understanding at AMBS that the role of seminary goes beyond academic excellence; to be effective AMBS must prepare students to be church leaders,” Doug Unrau said when he was a student at AMBS. Doug graduated in May 2013 and is pastor of Lowe Farm Mennonite Church (Man.). At the time he graduated, he received the award of excellence in Christian formation, presented by Andy Brubacher Kaethler, assistant professor of Christian formation and culture.

## NEW FROM AMBS

In fall 2013, AMBS launched new curriculum for the Master of Divinity program, including a distance option—MDiv Connect—and fewer credit hours. Now students can continue ministering in their own contexts and earn a degree with only two or three week-long visits each year to the Elkhart, Ind., campus.

AMBS also is increasing online course offerings. A 50 percent tuition discount continues for first-time seminary students taking an online class and for all online students from Canadian Mennonite University and Conrad Grebel University College.

The launch of non-credit, six-week online courses on Anabaptist topics also enhances benefits for people at a distance.

AMBS has begun the Center for Faith Formation and Culture, offering resources and conducting research to help congregations, individuals and families read their cultural contexts and foster faith-building practices.

## THANK YOU, MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Gifts from members of Mennonite Church Canada to the AMBS annual fund from July 1, 2012, to June 30, 2013, totaled \$358,583.05 (Cdn; exchange rate as of June 30, 2013). Canadian donors contribute through Mennonite Church Canada or directly to the seminary; online donations in Canadian dollars are possible through PayPal. AMBS is recognized on



Schedule VIII by Canada Revenue Agency, so gifts are tax deductible.

Volunteers from Canada enrich our learning community and provide invaluable assistance. Recent volunteers included Adolfo and Betty Puricelli, volunteer coordinators; Ed and Hedy Rempel; Wes and Cathy Braun; Glen and Anna Mary Brubacher; Alvin and Ruth Martin; Hugo and Doreen Neufeld; and Shirley Peters.

The AMBS Board includes four from Mennonite Church Canada: Bruce Baergen, Edmonton, Alta. (chair); Kathy Koop, Winnipeg, Man.; Gerda Krause, Vancouver, B.C.; and David Brubacher, Vineland, Ont.

## AMBS SERVES CANADA IN ONGOING WAYS

Pastoral Studies Distance Education, an undergraduate program of ministry preparation, included five Canadian students each year for two years, comprising up to one-third of the students in the program.

Canadian Mennonite University and AMBS continue to collaborate in publishing

*Vision: A Journal for Church and Theology* twice each year with recent themes of Peace and Economics. Read a sample article from each issue at [mennovision.org](http://mennovision.org).

Ken Hawkey serves as AMBS associate director of development, connecting Canadian congregations, individuals and area churches with the seminary.

Church Leadership Center webinars bring resources directly from AMBS to individuals and congregations. The annual Pastors Week provides opportunities for learning, reflection and fellowship; recordings of presentations and sermons are available from AMBS's iTunes U channel.

## MORE INFORMATION

Website: [www.ambs.ca](http://www.ambs.ca)

Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/followAMBS](http://www.facebook.com/followAMBS)

Recordings on iTunes U:

[www.ambs.ca/news-events/iTunesU.cfm](http://www.ambs.ca/news-events/iTunesU.cfm)

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary,  
3003 Benham Avenue, Elkhart, Indiana  
46517 574.295.3726

## PARTNERING WITH THE CHURCH ... DIFFERENTIATES OUR MISSION

- CMU is owned formally by two church conference bodies: Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Brethren Church of Manitoba. This year we welcomed 629 students from across the country and built connections and ongoing relationships with many MC and MB congregations. Our faculty taught intensive courses, offered portables, preached and served in congregations from Petito diac to Vancouver Island. Many Mennonite Church Canada members participate in CMU events and on our Board.
- We support opportunities for student ministry discernment through the Office of Ministry Inquiry, Ministry Quest and Ministry Lunches. A Pastor in Residence Program brought J. Janzen (Pastor of the Highland Community Church (MB) in Abbotsford) to campus this fall and in January we welcomed Fred Redekop (Pastor of the Floradale Mennonite Church in Ont.), each for one week of on-campus engagement.
- This year, 296 (47%) of our 629 students came from various Mennonite streams (166 Mennonite Church Canada, 72 Mennonite Brethren, 58 Other Mennonite – including international students from 11 different countries); 248 (40%) were from ecumenically diverse evangelical and mainline traditions, while 85 (13%) students disclosed no church connection.
- Mennonite Church Canada's 2014 Directory lists 120 Pastors who studied at CMU (CMU, CMBC, MBBC) and who are serving Mennonite Church Canada congregations. BC – 9; Alberta – 4; Saskatchewan – 17; Manitoba – 52; Ontario – 35; Quebec – 2; NB – 1. Of these Mennonite Church Canada pastors, 82 (68%) are CMBC alumni; 9 (7%) are MBBC / Concord alumni, while 30 (25%) are CMU alumni (2000 – 2013).



Cheryl Pauls, President,  
Canadian Mennonite University

- Our Graduate School of Ministry and Theology, in existence since 2007, saw a 41% increase in Graduate Studies course enrolments this year. To date, CMU has graduated 22 individuals with Masters in Theological Studies or Masters in Christian Ministry degrees. In our Fall and Winter terms this year we had 7 Mennonite Church Canada students in our Graduate School, 10 Mennonite Church Canada students majoring in undergraduate Biblical and Theological studies and 1 Mennonite Church Canada student majoring in Music Ministry. Many Mennonite Church Canada students majoring in other disciplines will become members and lay leaders in our congregations.

## COMMUNITY AND WORSHIP ... GROUND OUR VISION

- As in every congregation, vibrant community and authentic relationships are vital to faith formation. CMU works at faith and leadership formation in students through Chapel programs (every Tuesday and Friday morning and Wednesday evening); Forums – every Monday morning; Fellowship Groups, Leadership and Service opportunities, Faculty mentoring and support, Intentional 'calling out' of gifts (Ministry Quest and Retreats), Pastor in Residence Program, Spiritual Direction, Church Deputations, Thursday Night Theology conversations, Varsity Athletic participation, music and residence and on-campus community living!
- A commitment to Scripture as a 'living word' enlivens our university life. CMU's 2013-14 Chapel theme '*And the word was made flesh*', sought to inspire students in their trust of Scripture as a guide to faith and life.

## EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING ... SHAPES OUR LIFE

- 110 CMU students were involved in a Practicum (a graduation requirement in all degree programs) from summer 2013 to summer 2014. Practicums invite students to work, serve, and bridge academic and life-learning, discern career opportunities and partner with a diversity of people and agencies. 44% of our students work, serve, lead and explore ministry in churches, camps, schools, inner city programs, orphanages and in diverse chaplaincy settings. Other practicum placements involve students in issues of homelessness, health care, education, business, refugee work and more in Winnipeg, across Canada and internationally.

## SCHOLARSHIP AND FAITH ... MARK OUR COMMITMENT

- Faculty are teachers and mentors committed to help students integrate imaginative cross-disciplinary study, thinking and dialogue with a faith marked by a relationship with Jesus and a commitment to the life and mission of the church. All undergraduate students, in all degree programs must complete a minimum of 18 credit hours of Biblical and Theological studies, which includes Anabaptist studies and Integrative courses exploring the mosaic of knowledge around a theological centre.

**STAYING ON MISSION**

The mission of Columbia Bible College is *to equip people for a life of discipleship, ministry and leadership in service to the church and community.*

Columbia seeks to provide an educational experience that is reflective, practical and transformational. This holistic approach focuses on personal spirituality, academics, ethics, community living, theology and athletics – it is about every area of life. Through the power of Jesus living in us, we are aiming to live out the Great Commandment: “to love God with heart, soul, mind and strength”, and “to love our neighbours as we love ourselves.”

**STUDENTS AND PROGRAMS**

In Fall 2013, 419 students enrolled in programs designed to further their spiritual growth and empower them to participate effectively in God’s life-giving mission: Biblical Studies, Counselling, Early Childhood Education, Educational Assistant, Intercultural Studies, Outdoor Leadership, Praxis, Quest, Youth Work, and Worship Arts.

**KEY INITIATIVES**

The Lead Team has identified three crucial areas in program development: Leadership development integrated with an entrepreneurial element; Distance online education; and a revision of the Worship Arts program. Efforts are underway to implement these key course and program initiatives in September 2014.

**CONTINUING EDUCATION**

Continuing Education programs and events engage the surrounding community with such courses as *Transforming Conflict; Rock, Faith and Pop Culture; and Preaching Professional Development.* In March, Columbia is hosting a free seminar with Bruxy Cavey, author of the best-selling book *The End of Religion.*

**TRANSFER CREDIT TO UFV**

Over twenty of our courses are now received for transfer credit at the University of the Fraser Valley.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

Construction is underway to prepare a space in the CBC Resource Centre to house the historical artifacts and artworks collected by the late Dr. Fred Metzger.

Two new staff members have been hired to join the Development Department this year and we continue to search for a New Testament professor and a Worship Arts program director.

**ANNUAL BUDGET**

We are pleased to report that with partial funding from our two owning conferences, Mennonite Church British Columbia and the British Columbia Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches, we are on track to meet our budget of \$5.2M, through tuition, donations and ancillary revenues.

**INCREASING OUR ENDOWMENTS**

Steps have been taken to build our endowments through legacy giving by partnering with Mennonite Foundation and Covenant Family Wealth Advisors.

**A COLUMBIA STUDENT**

Jason Warkentin is in the BA program for Intercultural Studies and also is on the Men’s Volleyball team.

*As a participant in Bearcat Athletics, I have benefited spiritually from those that have gone before me. During my first year, I was coming out of a recent refocussing time in high school and entered onto a team with a few exceptional leaders. These leaders took time to meet with me individually and asked me directly about my faith, challenging me to think about what I believed. Since that first year, I have attempted to make it a growing priority in my athletic involvement at CBC to meet with fellow teammates and practice some of the same habits I learned from those leaders in my first year. This involves finding out where guys are in their faith, leading team testimony times and Bible studies as well as actively praying and being involved in the greater vision of Columbia Athletics which is giving God the glory. Through my athletic experience, I was challenged to develop my faith from a child-like understanding to a mature confidence*



Jason Warkentin

*in Christ that results in the action of attempting to initiate the same process in future teams.*

Following his Intercultural Studies internship in Germany we received the following email about Jason:

*We are so grateful for Jason ... investing a year into our ministry in Europe. Every way I turn I see the blessings he has left behind. Moreover, the way I miss him also illustrates how he has been an invisible blessing, true friend and fellow disciple. If you know Jason, I am sure, you know what I mean. Thank you for continuing to invest in him!*

Our calling is to support the churches of our owning conferences and equip those churches with committed and well-trained followers of Jesus. Through student service practicums and internships, the Travelling Ministry Team, faculty presentations and sermons, and other connection points, we work to strengthen those relationships.

For more information and stories about Columbia please visit our website at [www.columbiabc.edu](http://www.columbiabc.edu).

Bryan Born, President, Columbia Bible College

**GREBEL IS GOLDEN!  
CELEBRATING 50 YEARS**

Fifty years ago, a handful of visionary leaders from four Mennonite groups broke ground on a barren, sandy field on Westmount Road at the new University of Waterloo. They exhibited a ‘Wild Hope’ of things to come. The year 1963 marked the beginning of Conrad Grebel College – the first and only Mennonite liberal arts college in North America to adopt a hybrid model of education with a public university.

**PEOPLE - CONNECTIONS WITH  
MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA**

This year students in Grebel’s residence come from coast to coast. Gibo Shim, from Sherbrooke Mennonite Church in Burnaby BC says, “Attending University of Waterloo while living at a Mennonite residence provides opportunities to help me continue to grow in my faith.” From the Petitediac Mennonite Church in New Brunswick we have Mika Driedger who says, “Grebel is the place for me because even though my family is far away, I still feel at home.”

Grebel is a welcoming and warm place for students but our task is not simply to make them comfortable; it is to challenge and stretch them into creative thinkers and capable leaders. Increasingly, our calling and gift to Mennonite Church Canada is to be a bridge among the Mennonite community from coast to coast. We are working with staff at Mennonite Church Canada to better discern how to make these connections and research demographic trends and challenges.

Nine of our 13 board members are placed by MCEC (Mennonite Church Eastern Canada) and we have used the flexibility of the ‘at large’ appointments to include Geraldine Balzer from Saskatchewan.



**PROGRAM UPDATES**

We welcomed three new faculty members this year: **Mark Vuorinen** in the area of choral teaching and conducting, **Maisie Sum** in global music and **Alicia Batten** in the area of New Testament.

We are currently in search mode for a replacement for Carol Ann Weaver in music theory and also for a Dean to replace Jim Pankratz along with the inaugural director of the MSCU Centre for Peace Advancement.

**Course enrolments:** This year undergraduate course enrolments stood at 3,691 in 94 classes (10 classes more than last year). And we have 25 students in our new Master of Peace and Conflict Studies (MPACS) and we intentionally recruit international students and many first generation Canadians. Theological Studies (TS) has 31 students, 76% of which are Mennonite. We continue to offer a generous full-time tuition award and have many pastors who audit courses.

**Students Services:** 354 students connect to our residential program.

Geographic breakdown: 90% from Ontario

Faith demographic: 7% Catholic; 32% Evangelical; 16% Mainline; 36% Mennonite; 8% None listed; 2% Other

**FACILITY RENEWAL AND GROWTH**

Our “Next Chapter” campaign is nearing an end with \$6.2 million raised on this \$8.7 million project. We are hosting a grand opening celebration on Sunday June 22. The website has details and photos of the new spaces. We are blessed by so many supporters of our mission “to seek wisdom, nurture faith and pursue peace.”

In gratitude,  
Susan Schultz Huxman, Ph.D.  
President, Conrad Grebel University  
College  
University of Waterloo  
uwaterloo.ca/grebel

CAMS is an association of Canadian Anabaptist/Mennonite/Christian schools that seeks to provide mutual support of the common ministry that we share.

We have a variety of schools in our regular ranks: Mennonite Educational Institute (MEI) in B.C.; Menno Simons Christian School (MSCS) in Alberta; Rosthern Junior College (RJC) in Sask.; Mennonite Collegiate Institute (MCI), Steinbach Christian High School (SCHS), Mennonite Brethren Collegiate Institute (MBCI), Westgate Mennonite Collegiate (WMC), Winnipeg Mennonite Elementary Schools (WMES) in Manitoba; and Rockway Mennonite Collegiate (RMC) and United Mennonite Educational Institute (UMEI) in Ontario.

Some schools are elementary schools, some secondary, some both. These ten schools trace their lineage to a number of Mennonite conferences and groups. As well, the schools have a wide range of linkages to a variety of supporting conferences and associations.

Each school's circumstances are unique. And yet, as a group we communicate and gather regularly, and share insights and expertise freely. We appreciate very much the connection to the Church and its bodies, like Mennonite Church Canada.

CAMS administrators find great value when they are able to meet with each other. Westgate Mennonite Collegiate hosted the spring meeting in April, 2013, in Winnipeg. It was good to hear the varied approaches member schools took to attract applicants to their respective schools. Mennonite Collegiate Institute hosted the fall meeting in October, 2013, in Gretna, Manitoba. That agenda included discussion and plans for the CAMS Music Festival May 1-4, 2014 hosted by Menno Simons Christian School in Calgary, Alberta. Many schools will include this festival as part of their annual or biannual music tour schedule by "heading west" that spring.

**CAMS**  
Canadian Association of Mennonite Schools

Home About History Members Resources Contact

## Welcome

Welcome to our website. Canadian Association of Mennonite Schools is dedicated to foster dialogue and provide professional development among ten Mennonite academic institutions that span Ontario, the prairie provinces and British Columbia. Our schools share a rich tradition of providing sound academic instruction, and dedicate themselves to offer extensive extra-curricular opportunities within a caring and nurturing school community. As Mennonite schools, we are committed to follow the examples left to us by Jesus. Our students come to understand the importance of making peace in their neighbourhood and the world, and the value in serving others. I invite you to explore the school nearest you.

Bob Hummelt  
CAMS Chair

## News

- Plans are well under way for the 2014 CAMS Music Festival in Calgary from May 1-4, 2014. More information can be found [here](#).
- CAMS members achieve athletic excellence in Manitoba. Westgate Mennonite Collegiate captures two provincial medals in volleyball ([read more](#)) and MBCI coach Brian Plett is recongized for his contributions to sport ([read more](#)).

Canadian Association of Mennonite Schools  
Box 250 - Gretna, MB - ROG 0V0

Plans continue in preparation for the CAMS Educators' Conference in February, 2015, with Darryl Loewen, principal at Mennonite Collegiate Institute, chairing the planning committee. John D. Roth, author of *Teaching That Transforms: Why Anabaptist-Mennonite Education Matters* will serve as the conference's keynote speaker.

Submitted by Bob Hummelt  
Chair, Canadian Association of Mennonite Schools

The big news this year for MennoMedia is the launching of our new Children's curriculum, *Shine: Living in God's Light*, a dynamic Sunday school curriculum for ages 3 through grade 8 that engages Christian communities in their life together. This is the first new curriculum created for children since the launch of the highly successful Gather 'Round in 2006.

Specifically, *Shine*:

- Calls children to experience the transforming power of God's love.
- Nurtures trust in God and invites children to follow Jesus.
- Encourages imaginative, interactive biblical storytelling.
- Explores the meaning of the Bible within the gathered community.
- Cultivates the inner life of the Spirit through spiritual practices.
- Expresses faith through lives of compassionate peacemaking and service.
- Invites all ages to shine God's light in the world.

A pastor in Ontario recently spoke about the importance and need for a curriculum for children, that comes from the Anabaptist tradition:

*Because these are the things I really value in curricula, I'm very excited to use the new children's curriculum from MennoMedia that will come out in fall 2014, and no, I'm not being paid to say this! It's called Shine: Living in God's Light. And I know it won't be perfect, no curriculum is. And I know I'll need to adapt, that's a given with any curriculum. We always need to remember that any curriculum is meant as a guide and a springboard and requires contextualization. But I know without a doubt that the beliefs of the writers will be clear. I know it will be Christocentric, I know it will value both the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures; it will be inclusive, rooted in peace and*

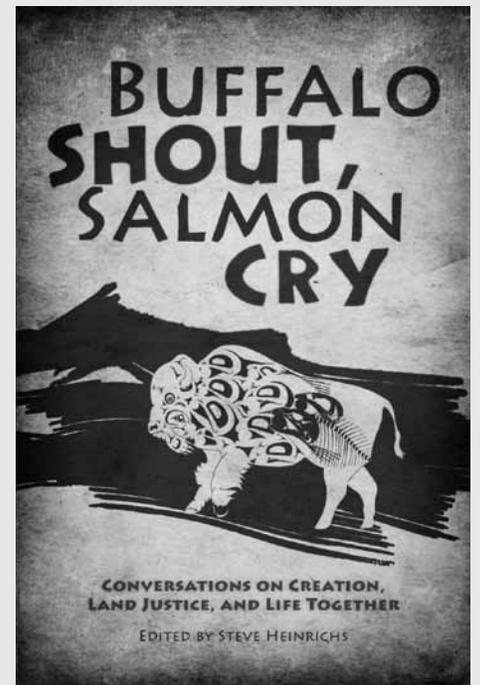
*love, community, story, ritual and practice. I know that the most important ground work that needs to happen when writing curriculum will have been done, and done with integrity, making it possible for me to focus my attention on my own faith development, and the developing faith of the children in front of me. Because that's what good curriculum writers do, they do the ground work, so we have the tools we need to enter into sacred spaces together.*

We are glad that we can serve Mennonite Churches and a wider North American audience with this curriculum. Make sure you visit the MennoMedia table this week to see our display on this material.

One successful, joint project this last year was the successful book, *Buffalo Shout, Salmon Cry: Conversations on Creation, Land Justice, and Life Together*, edited by Steve Heinrichs of Mennonite Church Canada. A review in the *Toronto Sun* said:

*... what is unique is that, to my knowledge, here for the first time is an attempt to have a series of frank conversations between scholars, writers and activists from every side in a search for creative answers. The search is not to blame anyone for the current crisis facing aboriginals in this country or elsewhere, but to explore fresh ways of discovering the common wisdom in Native spirituality and the Christian tradition... I found Buffalo Shout, Salmon Cry, refreshingly full of hope and promise. The "common wisdom" offers healing of past wounds and a restored wholeness to both our society and our planetary home.*

Also available this past spring, from MennoMedia's book imprint, Herald Press, are two wonderful books from some bestselling authors, Ervin Stutzman and Saloma Miller Furlong. In *Jacob's Choice*, Ervin uses historical fiction to tell the story of Jacob Hochstetler, his ancestor (and ancestor to nearly 100,000 people in North America) an early Amish settler, whose wife and daughter were murdered in an attack in 1757, and who



*Buffalo Shout, Salmon Cry: The search is not to blame anyone for the current crisis facing aboriginals in this country or elsewhere, but to explore fresh ways of discovering the common wisdom in Native spirituality and the Christian tradition...*

*"This is an amazing collection which is profoundly necessary for us. I am recommending this book to everyone... It is the 'must read' book of the year for church folks and others interested in transforming our minds and hearts and creating more life-giving relations between settlers and indigenous folks..."*

was taken into captivity along with his sons. In *Bonnet Strings*, Saloma tells the story of her painful leaving of her Amish community in Ohio.

Please keep abreast of our vision and plans for the future via our new blog at [www.Mennobytes.com](http://www.Mennobytes.com).

*Russ Eanes*

Russ Eanes, Executive Director,  
MennoMedia

Mennonite Camping Association (MCA) appreciates the opportunity to affiliate with Mennonite Church Canada. We are enriched by maintaining this bi-national association.

It has been a good year for Mennonite camping.



Many children, youth, families and churches have come through our ministries. It continues to bless us to hear the stories of life-changing experiences that begin or are enhanced at camp and then are nurtured and disciplined in the churches. It is a valuable partnership and we are excited to be partners in your ministry. In 2013, we held regional gatherings at Camp Mennoscah in Kansas, and Camp Andrews in Pennsylvania. This past March, 2014, we gathered at Crooked Creek in Iowa for our biennial bi-national gathering with the theme of "Creating Sabbath in the Tangle of Modern Life". We were blessed by the profound, inspirational teaching of Ervin Stutzman, Exec. Dir. of Mennonite Church USA and the worship leading of Jeremy Kempf, from Trinity Mennonite Church, Glendale, AZ.

We are grateful that Elsie Rempel again arranged for and staffed a table of resources from MennoMedia and that she

keeps connecting us with good Mennonite resources.

We are pleased to have a new representative from Mennonite Church USA in Rachel Springer Gerber, their half-time denominational minister for youth and young adults and look forward to the gifts she will bring to our relationship.

The fellowship and networking that occurs in these meetings is invaluable. Our MCA Board remains active and involved with broad representation. On March 26, I will be commissioned as President, Andrew Michaels of Camp Luz will be commissioned as President Elect, and Doc Johnson of Menno Haven Camp & Retreat Center will continue on the board as Past-President. Olivia Bartel of Camp Mennoscah is the Membership Coordinator. We greatly appreciate the service of Kristina Mortotsi of Willowgrove Day Camp as our Secretary-Treasurer.

Thank you again for your support of Mennonite camping ministry. We live in a fast-paced world where it is easy to forget to stop and listen for the still small voice. Camps and retreats afford that opportunity. Children and youth today are pulled in many directions and need to have a sense of grounding in their Christian faith. Camp is a great place for that to happen. It is important to encourage all of our members to take the time to come away and be refreshed. It can be life changing. We look forward to seeing you at one of our ministries in the near future.

Bob Briscoe, Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center, Toano, Virginia

Incoming President, on behalf of Mennonite Camping Association

## OVERVIEW

MCCN is a network for Mennonite people and agencies actively engaged in the care and restoration of God's creation. Its goals are to encourage the Church to:

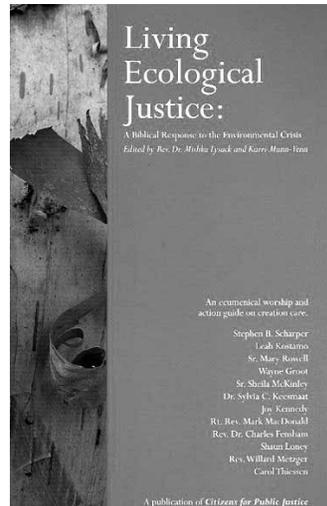
- Claim our biblical and theological foundation regarding the care of God's Creation.
- Discover the ties that link all created beings to each other and to God.
- Confess the harm we have caused the natural world and our neighbours.
- Act faithfully to restore the earth.

## THE COUNCIL IN 2013:

Canada: Mike Currie (Abbotsford, BC) (joined in Dec.), Joanne Moyer (Winnipeg, MB); USA: Greg Bowman (Salem, OH), Luke Gascho (Goshen, IN), Dave Hockman-Wert (Corvallis, OR), Jennifer Halteman Schrock (Goshen, IN), Jim Smith (Goshen, IN), Marlisa Yoder Bontrager (Lancaster, PA) (joined in Apr.); Intern: Janie Beck Kreider (Goshen, IN).

## ACTIVITIES IN 2013

- **Council Meetings:** We held a face-to-face meeting on April 12-13, 2013, Goshen, IN, and a virtual meeting by conference call on August 13, 2013.
- Mennonite Church Activities:
  - The largest accomplishment of 2013 was preparing a resolution on creation care for the MC USA Convention in Phoenix, July 2013, and seeing it passed by delegates with a wide margin. The resolution calls all MC USA congregations to study a series of creation care questions during the next two years.
  - In July 2013, council member Joanne Moyer presented "Caring for Creation: Making your Voice Heard," a workshop at the Mennonite Church Canada's Fat Calf Festival (youth assembly) in Manitoba. Participants shared things they love and are concerned about in creation, explored some biblical passages, and then wrote letters to church leadership about their hopes and fears for creation.
- **Network Building:** 109 individuals joined MCCN in 2013, bringing the membership over 750. MCCN staff put energy into local initiatives this year in an attempt to model ways congregations could work together. We organized three quarterly meetings of MCCN members in the Goshen area. These were well-attended, with six to eight congregations and 10 to 15 people represented.



- **Curriculum:** Along with the MC USA resolution, MCCN committed to providing a creation care curriculum for congregations. The 13-session adult curriculum is entitled **Every Creature Singing** and will be available in March 2014. It includes both a biblical-theological piece and a series of "circle questions" that invite congregations to learn to know the ecological aspects of their communities.

- **Interns:** Janie Beck Kreider, who arrived in August 2012, stayed a second year. Janie has taken on a number of web revisions in preparation for making MCCN's new curriculum available. She also worked with local initiatives including the quarterly MCCN meetings in Goshen and the Eco-Justice Notes discussions.
- **E-Newsletter:** MCCN published six E-newsletters in 2013. Topics covered included rural congregations, watershed discipleship, climate change, coverage of MC USA and MC Canada creation care events and news from congregations.
- **Website:** Changes include the following: making current postings appear easier to find, a display page for the Every Creature Singing curriculum, and a password-protected system that will enable us to know who and how many people are using it.
- **Music Project:** In June 2014, MCCN participated in Conrad Grebel University College's third Sound in the Land conference on the theme of Music and the Environment. At the same time, an ongoing project called "Songs of Place" is being planned to engage environmental issues through music. Songwriters are being called to write songs focussing on place, some of which will be performed at the conference.

To join the growing network or get more information:  
[www.mennoncreationcare.org](http://www.mennoncreationcare.org).

Submitted by Joanne Moyer  
 on behalf of MCCN

## Christian Witness Mandate

*Within the vision and priorities of Mennonite Church Canada, Christian Witness provides direct ministry, engages in partnerships, facilitates new initiatives and promotes the vision for calling, equipping, and sending the church to engage Canada and the world with the reconciling gospel of Jesus Christ.*

### GREETINGS

We want to begin by saying a hearty “Thank you” for your interest in this assembly and for taking the time to browse this report.

Whether you are an assembly veteran or a newcomer, it may be useful to share what Witness does with you and for you as part of our national church family.

In short, Witness is a construction and renovation cooperative: We build and develop relationships with First Nations people in the traditional land referred to as Turtle Island (North America), and globally with people and churches in more than 20 countries around the world. We do this by being attentive to what God is doing and inviting us to be and do, joining and inviting others in forming a people of God, growing leaders for the church, and becoming a global church

Where leadership and nurture is needed, we support and encourage. Where self reliance is needed, we plant the seeds of self-sustainability. Where teaching is needed, we offer biblically sound, Anabaptist training. Where conflict arises, we provide peace and reconciliation training. Where congregations want or need to engage their gifts and calling, we partner and encourage. And where there are few or no communities that follow Jesus, we nurture or start Christian communities.

This is merely a snapshot. Please know that we couldn’t do it without your partnership and support. The funding for these ministries comes from your

The screenshot shows the Edmonton Journal website. The main article is titled "A modern pilgrimage to understand the truth behind Canadian residential schools" by Brent Wittmeier, dated March 26, 2014. The article features a photo of four people in winter gear walking on a road, with a large truck in the background. The website layout includes a navigation bar, a search bar, and a sidebar with "Most Popular News" and "Story Tools".

generous gifts. The staff and workers listed come from our congregations and they continue to build on the work of previous generations. We do this on behalf of all the congregations that are part of Mennonite Church Canada. You will find reports from those partners with whom we have the closest ties elsewhere in this Report Book. We are deeply grateful to you all.

### ACROSS THE STREET

The bulk of Witness ministry in Canada is conducted through our Indigenous Relations staff. Steve Heinrichs, Director, is passionate as well as uniquely gifted for this work. A major project of 2012-13 has been the compilation of the book, *Buffalo Shout, Salmon Cry*. This collection of conversations among Native and non-Native writers, poets, academics, and artists has been widely and positively reviewed in secular and faith media, in both conservative and liberal publications. The book has already been selected as a teaching resource by three universities, Christian Peacemaker Teams, and North American Indigenous Institute for Theological Studies.

As Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) events have rotated across Canada,

### WITNESS BUDGETS:

Fiscal Year Ending 2013 (Net): \$1,527,828  
 Fiscal Year Ending 2014 (Net): \$1,425,534  
 Fiscal Year Ending 2015 (Net): \$1,450,534

hundreds – perhaps by now well over one thousand – Mennonites from congregations have engaged in at least one TRC event in one or more location (Halifax, Montreal, Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Vancouver and Edmonton). These events have been sobering and transformative for the Mennonites in attendance – but much more awareness and education must happen before we can truly grasp the deep gash left by Indian Residential Schools in the collective hearts and minds of First Nations people and in our relationships as settlers and people of shared treaties and lands. The Edmonton TRC invited Mennonite Church Canada to publicly present *Buffalo Shout, Salmon Cry* as a formal expression of reconciliation.

The TRC events have been helpful across Canada in raising awareness of the history, relationships and commitments of settler peoples and the church with indigenous peoples.

From Mar. 7 - 27, four Mennonites from Winnipeg walked from Stoney Knoll, Saskatchewan to Edmonton, Alberta (550 km). This *Honour Walk* to the final national Truth and Reconciliation Commission event was done to recognize the memories of Indigenous children who tried to walk/run away from residential schools but never made it home and to honour survivors en route. The walkers were part of the Student Christian Movement (SCM) Winnipeg and were supported in spirit and with small financial offerings by a variety of Mennonite groups, including MCC Manitoba, MCC Saskatchewan and MCC Alberta. Mennonite Church Canada partnered through conversation, administrative support, constituency contacts/networking, and financial support.

In Alberta, we have helped initiate an Inter-Mennonite TRC working group, bringing together representatives and leaders from Mennonite Church Alberta, Mennonite Central Committee Alberta and members of the Alberta Mennonite Brethren.

In partnership with Mennonite Church British Columbia, Witness continues to help financially support the ministry of Brander McDonald, Indigenous Relations Coordinator in MCBC. Brander continues to do workshops on Indigenous Christianity and Worldview at various congregations, is crafting a short book on protocol for how settler communities can respectfully engage Indigenous neighbours, and more.

*Building Bridges* has become an annual, ecumenical gathering hosted by Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church Manitoba's Partnership Circle that connects indigenous and settler Christian communities. At this year's April 25 event, Justice Murray Sinclair, Truth and Reconciliation commissioner, spoke on the theme of "Next Steps for the Church in the Reconciliation Journey." Vince Fontaine, Ojibway, founder and primary songwriter and guitarist of Juno award

winning Eagle & Hawk, provided music with his band, Indian City.

More recently, we have begun working with Day School Scholars – an estimated 150,000 or more indigenous primary and secondary school students who attended Day Schools and were subjected to similar loss of language, culture, family relationships and abuse. This group has not been recognized through the TRC process, and no formal recognition or reconciliation process has yet begun.



*Paths for Peacemaking with Host Peoples* is a new guide to help Canadians nurture better relationships and work for justice with host peoples. In the first week of publication, almost 200 people downloaded the booklet, and we've sold/given away the 250 we originally printed. This booklet is available for download or purchase at [www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/2249](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/2249). It is helpful for congregations and individuals considering deepening their awareness and involvement.

One person active in indigenous ministry in another church tradition wrote the following after receiving a copy: "Just

got around to reading this... great job! I had been working on some material as well, but I have decided to abandon that project and just send people your stuff. It really is so well done. Please be encouraged." We have also produced several videos available at [www.youtube.com/mennonitechurchca](http://www.youtube.com/mennonitechurchca). In addition, a 28 minute film documentary called *Broken Covenant* shares the experience of Steve Heinrichs who was invited to join a delegation of Indigenous chiefs and elders to London, England for the 250th anniversary of the Royal Proclamation of 1763. The ensuing story reveals the past significance of the Proclamation and its surprising and little-known present-day implications for both Indigenous and settler Canadians. Momentum builds as the delegation prepares for a potential meeting with the Crown, in which Indigenous leaders will urge the powers to honour their promises. But will the officials agree to meet? The film lays bare the ongoing lack of respect that the Crown and, specifically, the Canadian nation-state has for Indigenous peoples. Viewers will begin to connect the neglect of the Proclamation with Canada's history of broken promises and Indigenous cries for justice. The film will be screened at Assembly 2014.



Following on the heels of Assembly 2014 is Native Mennonite Assembly (July 28-31), a Canada/US event hosted by Mennonite Church Canada and the Partnership Circle of Mennonite Church Manitoba. Three-and-one-half days of outdoor worship, workshops, learning tours, food and fellowship, on the campus of Canadian Mennonite University, will welcome an anticipated 250 persons from many different communities across Turtle Island (North America). The theme is "Ears to Earth, Eyes to God" based on the ever-relevant wisdom of Job (12:7-10). Please

note that this event is also for non-Native persons. We are strongly encouraging non-Native persons to attend. Visit <http://home.mennonitechurch.ca/event/NativeAssembly2014> for more information.

### AROUND THE WORLD

International Ministry is not without challenges.

Workers' cars get stolen, as happened to Nathan and Taryn Dirks in Botswana. Political and civil conflict forces workers to suddenly change plans, as it did for Dann and Joji Pantoja who were called to bring peace building resources to a violent conflict in Zamboanga, Philippines. The borders of Russia and Ukraine are being tested as this report is written. Natural disasters postpone planned ministry as has now happened in the Philippines for three consecutive years. In some countries, churches are refused government recognition and registration, which creates unique and complex challenges for ministry. Simply getting paperwork in order to buy land or build a meeting place can take years. In Western Europe, ministry is challenged by secularism, a lost sense of community, and a faithless society.

But there are many joys.

Bible translation in Burkina Faso, a primarily Muslim country, continues to progress through the work of Lillian Nicolson. Lillian's husband, Norm, meanwhile, has set up a small workshop to teach trades and nurture entrepreneurship. Also in Burkina Faso, Bruce Yoder and Nancy Frey continue to nurture new, young church leaders in the Ouagadougou Mennonite congregation and teach church leaders at the Benin Bible Institute. And in the Anabaptist Network of South Africa, Andrew and Karen Suderman are working to develop leaders that can both represent and engage the diverse churches and communities in a country where the wounds of apartheid still need healing.

In the United Kingdom, faith is widely regarded as little more than a quaint

tradition. But Michael and Cheryl Nimz, working with the local Anabaptist Network, report that there remains an openness and deep desire for community and deep relationships. In Germany, Gregory Rabus and Jennifer Otto are preparing to plant a church in Mannheim at the invitation of a small Mennonite conference.

Russia, on the global stage this past February in hosting the Winter Olympics, is served by William Yoder who ministers within the wider evangelical Russian church and connects us to small Mennonite communities in Russia. We are fortunate to have this relationship.

In Ukraine, Sergey and Lena Deynekin, who are supported through a Witness partner project, and Mary Raber, a long-term worker whom Witness supports as a partner through Mennonite Mission Network, are engaged in vibrant ministry. The Deynekins lead a small but vigorous Baptist congregation near Kherson. Mary Raber, based at the Odessa Theological Seminary, provides leadership training at several other Eastern European seminaries. The uncertain political situation in Ukraine at the time of writing this report may have implications we do not yet fully comprehend.

In Bolivia we are helping to train a small group of young people for pastoral ministry. We rejoiced to hear recently that the Bolivian Mennonite Church has been formally recognized by the government and the process of signing the appropriate documents is underway. This enables the Bolivian Church to invite mission and service workers.

The Lagoa Encantada Mennonite Church in Recife, Brazil, began construction of a larger meeting place with the help of Mennonite Church Canada through sister congregations in Langham, Sask., and Steinbach, Man.



*Tom and Christine Poovong plan to convert to a building into a bilingual English-Thai children's nursery, enabling them to build relationships with families in the community, provide employment, and potentially income for their church planting ministry.*

A need in Chile for leadership training from an Anabaptist perspective is being addressed with Mennonite Church Canada with financial support for two leaders to attend a Latin American consultation called by Mennonite World Conference. These leaders propose extending SEMILLA (Central American Anabaptist leadership training ministry) curriculum to Chile to help with the formation of pastors and church leaders and possibly inviting long term workers to assist.

Our sister church relationship with the Conference of Mennonites in Mexico (CMM) is now 10 years old. For many years, CMM has made significant donations to Witness international ministry in gratitude for earlier Canadian mission work in their country and also out of a desire to partner and support ministry internationally.

Bock Ki Kim and Sook Kyoung Park from Ontario began serving as Witness Workers at the Korea Anabaptist Center (KAC) in Chuncheon, South Korea, in 2013. They are providing leadership at the KAC office while other KAC staff engage in a building project. Bock Ki has been the driving force to edit and publish the latest (4<sup>th</sup>) issue of the Korea Anabaptist Journal (KAJ), a Korean language publication.

In addition, the couple regularly visits various Anabaptist congregations in South Korea in an effort to encourage networking among them and recently celebrated the birth of the *Peace and Joy Church* in Nonsan.

In the Philippines, Dann and Joji Pantoja anticipate a considerable amount of time in 2014 will be devoted to rebuilding from Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda). Joji continues to develop Coffee for Peace, an entrepreneurial endeavor that helps expand the impact of PeaceBuilders Community Inc. (PBCI). PBCI continues to make steady progress in working towards their goal of establishing a local Peace and Reconciliation team in each of the country's 80 provinces by the year 2020.

Meanwhile, Christina and Darnell Barkman continue to nurture a new church plant in Manila. Core members of Peace Church meet regularly for worship, fellowship and discussion; each one of the members is also very involved in other church ministries or congregations. They have developed many good connections with the wider evangelical community in Manila and are bringing a strong Anabaptist and peace witness. Christina and Darnell continue to cultivate a relationship with the Integrated Mennonite Churches (IMC) of the Philippines, particularly in relation to the IMC youth and youth leaders.

After moving to Thailand at the beginning of October, Tom & Christine Poovong received an encouragement visit from Will Loewen, pastor of the Poovong's home congregation, Trinity MC, Calgary. Meetings with other Mennonite/Anabaptist mission workers in Thailand have helped determine that Khon Kaen City, located in the Isaan region of northeast Thailand, will be the base of their new ministry. Through the generosity of a local Christian business woman, the Poovongs have acquired the use of a building which they plan to convert to a bilingual English-Thai children's nursery, enabling them to build relationships



*Hippolyto Tshimanga illustrates discipleship that a disciple is someone who sits at the feet of his Master to learn. "This learning is not merely intellectual," he says. "A true disciple would acquire the qualities of his Master to live and act like him." The Samambaia Mennonite Church (Brazil) invited Tshimanga, Mennonite Church Canada's Director for Latin American ministry, to engage young leaders on the topic of discipleship during a visit in January, 2013.*

with families in the community, provide employment, and potentially income for the ministry.

#### **SHORT TERM MINISTRY**

In recent years we have found an increased appetite in our faith community for short term service ministry. Mennonite Church Canada regularly receives invitations for short term service within the context of our long term relationships. We have made some wonderful matches of needs and people to serve:

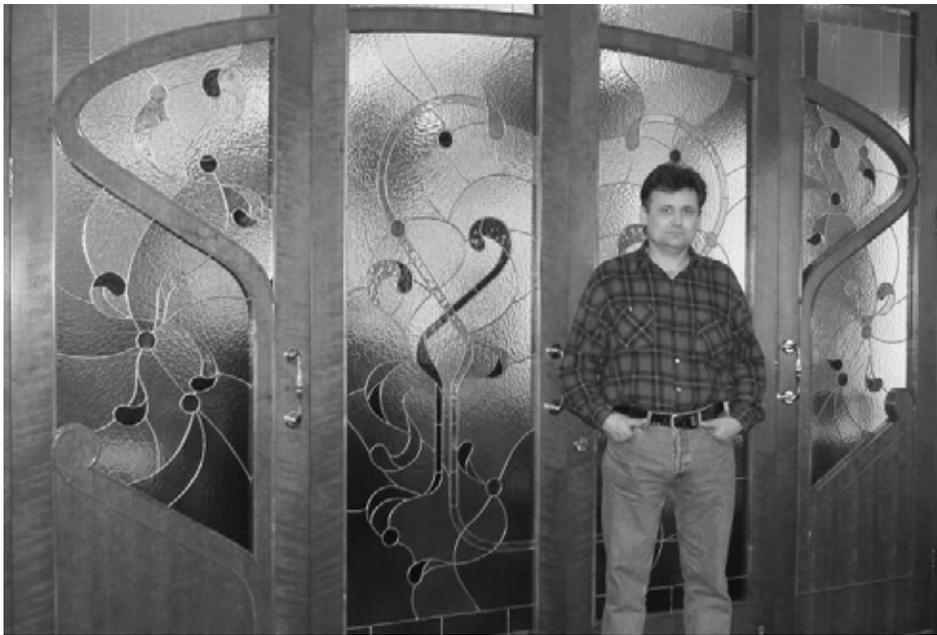
- Jeanette Hoepfner (Man.) has completed a five month assignment as a guesthouse manager at Bethlehem Bible College.
- Jerry and Kara Buhler (Sask.), served at Bethlehem Bible College to help with library and transportation needs;
- Henry and Erna Funk (Sask.) volunteered at the Nazareth Hospital through SERVE Nazareth

- Palmer Becker (Ont.) taught an intensive course at Bethlehem Bible College on Pastoral Care & Counseling
- Jack & Irene Suderman (Ont.) served as resource workers in China, the Philippines, and South Korea.
- Dan Nighswander & Yvonne Snider Nighswander (Man.) taught New Testament and assisted the library at Union Biblical Seminary in Pune, India.

These short-term assignments have been very ably facilitated by Tany Warkentin, our new Short Term Ministry Coordinator. As this report is being written, Tany is working on filling confirmed and possible short term openings in Burkina Faso, Palestine, and Thailand.

#### **ENDINGS**

Endings can be cause for both challenge and joy. In 2013-14 there are several endings of long term, passionate, and committed international workers.



*Darko Vilupek, a stained glass artist in Croatia, is seeking Mennonite Church Canada help to start an Anabaptist ministry in his home country.*

In 2013, Julie & Philip Bender ended nine years of energetic and fruitful service in China. Everyone they connected with in China has spoken lovingly of their presence, friendship, and encouragement to consider a life of living faithfully in Christ. They also generously extended their initial commitment to Canadian iteration in churches last fall.

2013 also marked the conclusion of Rad Houmphan's 17 years of service as a Witness Worker, together with her husband Pat. Pat's eagerness to share his faith and Rad's nurturing character helped to establish the Living Water Churches of Borabu and Ban Daeng as strong and growing church communities. They provided a strong base for leadership of these congregations through their mentorship and theological teaching. We bless them in their ongoing ministries.

**UPCOMING**

Andrew and Karen Suderman and the Anabaptist Network in South Africa (ANISA) have requested support for the sending of Mzwandile Nkutha (Mzi), a young South African Pastor for studies at

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) for 2014-2015.

The French Mennonite Church is hoping to finalize the composition of their church planting team, planned for active operation by August 2014. Witness is recruiting for a mission worker for this initiative.

In 2014, we will be sending one of our new Resource Workers for a teaching assignment with the Mennonite Convention in Uruguay. Rene Baergen from Ontario will travel to Uruguay to teach Bible courses in their Study Center, a ministry we have in partnership with the Uruguayan church conference.

Following a successful Pastor Exchange Tour of Canadian Mennonite pastors to China in September 2013, Mennonite Church Canada staff worked with long term China worker Jeanette Hanson and a group of Mennonite Church Saskatchewan pastors to host a reciprocal June 2014 visit of Chinese pastors to Canada.

**NEW REQUESTS**

Each year, Witness receives numerous requests to start or assist with a variety

A brief history of International Workers over the last 10 years. This includes short and long term workers, as well as workers we support in partnership with other agencies (e.g. Mennonite Mission Network and Eastern Mennonite Mission).

Year	Total Workers
2004	101
2005	97
2006	99
2007	73
2008	74
2009	70
2010	71
2011	45
2012	40
2013	69
2014	51

A 10 year historical look at the number of International Ministry Locations

Year	Countries of Ministry
2004	40
2005	37
2006	37
2007	31
2008	32
2009	27
2010	27
2011	26
2012	25
2013	25
2014	26

of ministries – many more than we can engage. Sometimes we are asked to facilitate funding for a variety of non-budgeted ministry opportunities. These requests come from congregations, individuals, groups of people, and overseas

churches.

In the last year alone we have received invitations for new ministry initiatives and/or projects in Benin, Brazil, Cambodia, China, Croatia, Kenya, Germany, India, Laos, Mexico, Philippines, South Africa, and Uruguay. This is just a sampling.

You can be assured that we have established protocols and policies for evaluating invitations. Sometimes there is a good fit, sometimes we make referrals, sometimes we wait, and sometimes we have to say "no."

It is noteworthy to point out that we are frequently invited into ministry because of decades of sensitive and respected service around the world. As Anabaptists, we are desirable, often first-choice partners. We are seen as having something uniquely valuable to offer. Thanks be to God!

#### **WORKING TOWARD SELF-SUSTAINABILITY**

The Colombian Mennonite Church has been engaging the issue of strengthening economic self reliance. For 2014 they chose the theme of self-sustainability for their General Assembly in March and Hippolyto Tshimanga, our Latin America Ministry Director was invited to be the plenary speaker.

In a similar vein, the 5 year old Evangelical Mennonite Church in Cuba is in the process of registering itself under the legal umbrella of the Brethren in Christ Church there (Cuba has refused to register any new church groups). This move helps us to further explore the organization of capacity building seminars for the church to help them to address their need at an early stage in their development.

This year has been a year of transition for Macau Mennonite Church since that congregation was able, with the assistance of Mennonite Church Canada, Mennonite Mission Network, and Mennonite Men/Join Hands to purchase a church property in June, 2013.



# Wow!

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WOW! (World of Witness) International Report offers you insight into the lives of churches and mission workers around the world.

This newsletter is produced five times per year and contains excerpts from mission worker's letters, as well as International Ministries news from Mennonite Church Canada.

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We are glad that Macau Mennonite Church is experiencing new levels of self-sufficiency and strong church life. After 19 years, 2015 will be the last year Mennonite Church Canada provides ongoing financial support for the Macau congregation.

Generous donations are seeding a micro-credit financing program as well as new entrepreneurship training program in small scale, sustainable agriculture and business in Burkina Faso and the Democratic Republic of Congo. In both countries, we are working with Mennonite church members and leaders to enhance income generation through micro-credit and entrepreneurship, with the expectation that increased income will also help start new, locally supported ministries and church programs, especially for youth. We hope these will be significant steps toward financially self-sustaining and self-replicating congregations in these countries.

#### **PIONEERING**

From his home base in B.C., Pastor and Witness Worker Nhien Pham continues to network with and provide support for Vietnamese Mennonite churches in Vietnam and Cambodia. Nhien Pham has recommended the ordination of Pastor Khanh, a Vietnamese Mennonite pastor in Phnom Penh, Cambodia – a country where no other Mennonite churches exist. The Vietnamese Mennonite churches of the North American Vietnamese Mennonite Fellowship (NAVMF) are currently trying to raise \$30,000 CDN for Mennonite Church Canada to assist in growing the church in the Krachie province of Cambodia, where Pastor Khanh is leading the emerging Vietnamese Mennonite congregation.

Witness has been invited to consider beginning a new ministry in Croatia. A positive visit in November, 2013, has grown into the possibility of a short term assignment there.

The ministry landscape around us continues to shift. It is clear that equipping ministry leaders in new ways will become an important aspect of mission work. In the future, we anticipate that multi-vocational leaders with a holistic vision for mission and social entrepreneurial outreach will be required. In October 2014, Witness, together with Mennonite Mission Network (MC USA) and Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, will host a three-day planning consultation that gathers business, mission, pastoral, and faculty representatives to design an innovative, interdisciplinary educational venture to equip multi-vocational leaders.

Mennonite Church Canada has recently joined Church Planting Canada, an inter-church cooperative that provides resources and a network for the multiplication of congregations across Canada. In October, nearly 20 Mennonite Church Canada pastors and leaders from Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec gathered in Oakville, Ont. for the biennial Congress. Inspiring speakers and seminars dealing with Canadian church realities helped provoke good conversation regarding the priority and need for church planting in all parts of the country. In a recent study by Witness staff, it was revealed that 70% of our new congregations in the last 10 years have been non-English speaking, and many of these have been the result of initiatives from outside of Mennonite Church Canada. Norm Voth of Mennonite Church Manitoba is serving in a volunteer role to continue and connect church planting conversations among our Area Churches. This is a key area for Mennonite Church Canada to consider as we wrestle with what God is calling us to in the 21<sup>st</sup> century as we seek to thrive and grow as the church.

## ORGANIZATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

On the following pages you will find reports from the ministries of service organizations with whom Witness regularly relates.

Submitted by



Tim Froese,  
Executive Minister, Witness



Norm Dyck, Chair,  
Christian Witness Council

## STAFF & COUNCIL

We want to express sincere appreciation for staff as well as our leadership body, the Christian Witness Council. It is a joy to serve and work with these fine people and to welcome four new members to the Council in the last year.

### STAFF:

Tim Froese (Executive Minister, Witness)  
KyungHee Park (Executive Assistant, Witness)  
Gordon Janzen (Director, Asia, Europe, and Middle East Ministries)  
Hippolyto Tshimanga (Director, Africa, Europe, and Latin America Ministries)  
Steve Heinrichs (Director, Indigenous Relations)  
Tany Warkentin (Short Term Ministry Coordinator)  
Ingrid Miller (Administrative Assistant, Witness)

### CHRISTIAN WITNESS COUNCIL

Norm Dyck, Chair (Listowel MC, ON)  
Lynell Bergen (Hope MC, MB)  
Allan Friesen (Eigenheim MC, SK)  
Pat Gerber-Pauls (Zoar MC, Waldheim, SK)  
Roberson Mbayamvula (Hagerman MC, ON)  
Paul Mo (Markham Chinese MC, ON)  
Hugo Neufeld (Trinity MC, AB)  
Rie Neufeld (Mennonite Japanese Christian Fellowship, BC)



## 2013-2014 EXECUTIVE

Left to right: Elsie Wiebe (Morden, MB), Myrna Sawatzky (Saskatoon SK), Liz Koop (St. Catharines ON), Lois Mierau (Langham SK), Kate Janzen (Calgary, AB), Linda Wiens (St. Catharines, ON), Waltrude Gortzen (Abbotsford BC)

### Mennonite Women Canada encourages women to:

- ~ nurture their life in Christ
- ~ acknowledge and share their gifts
- ~ hear and support each other
- ~ serve and minister across the street and around the world

Mennonite Women Canada has a 62-year history of coordinating the women's ministry of the 5 area churches of Mennonite Church Canada. We are a place where women can connect nationally and our projects continue to provide encouragement and support to women at home and overseas.

Our mission statement (above) is our compass in deciding which projects to support and we believe that our projects are consistent with it. Even so there are still details that change within each project from year to year.

- **Spiritual Growth Assistance Fund** – Every year we offer scholarships to women studying Anabaptist theology at a Masters degree level. Recipients this year are Iris Leung (Trinity Western University), Melody-Neufeld Rocheleau (CMU), and Jessica Reesor-McDowell (Toronto School of Theology).
- **Pennies and Prayer Legacy Fund** – \$5,000 from this endowment fund is used each year to support Witness workers overseas. Recipients are Christina and Darnell Barkman (Philippines) and Taryn and Nathan Dirks (Botswana).
- **Annual Bible Study Guide** – We collaborate with Mennonite Women USA and MennoMedia to publish a 70-page Bible Study Guide. *Courageous Women of the Bible* was published in July 2013 and we sent 237 copies to MC Canada congregations and women's groups. The 2014 guide is called *Practicing Presence* and will be available this July. Every third year we invite a Canadian woman to be the writer.

- **International Ministries** – With the guidance of Witness staff we choose an international project to support. This year we are continuing to support Mennonite Church Canada's ongoing ministry among the Isaan people in northeast Thailand under the direction of recently installed Witness workers, Tom and Christine Poovong.
- **Radical Journey** – This past year we continued to support this one-year program, a joint ministry between Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada, which provides a one year cross-cultural experience for young adults.

Our biggest challenge and also our focus continue to center on making connections and communicating with women across Canada. As an executive we communicate almost exclusively by email. Our spring and fall *Connections* newsletter is available to churches across Canada both electronically and in hard copy. We continue to work on creating a national database of women wanting to stay connected to Mennonite Women Canada. Articles for our page in the *Canadian Mennonite* under the by-line "*Women Walking Together in Faith*" are published every other month. We also post links to *Connections* and these articles on our blog.

A highlight for me this fall was being able to attend the BC Women's Ministry Fall Retreat at Camp Squeah. I was inspired by the speaker, Rebecca Seiling, and met and enjoyed the company of many wonderful women. I was also encouraged by their support of Mennonite Women Canada.

Our finances are in the capable hands of Lois Mierau and she ends her second 3-year term in July 2016. As president, my 3-year term is ending this July and I have agreed to stay on for 2 more years. With the change from annual to biennial assemblies we are proposing a change to our constitution so that terms of office will be 2 years instead of 3 years. Each year we compile an Annual Report Book with financial statements and detailed descriptions of our projects, which is distributed to churches and women's groups across Canada. It is also available upon request.

Mennonite Women Canada started blogging in January, 2009 and ventured into Facebook in March, 2013. We are encouraged by the number of visitors to both our blog and Facebook page as we strive to make our posts relevant, informative and interesting. Visitors to our blog come from 71 different countries.

We realize that women's ministry today has a different look than in the past. We strive to connect with women of all ages across the different cultures represented in our churches. We continue to be challenged and pray that the women who connect with us will be blessed.

Submitted by Liz Koop  
President, Mennonite Women Canada  
905-562-5920 / presmwcanada@  
mennonitechurch.ca

"As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." 1 Peter 4:10



As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.  
1 Peter 4:10



#### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Mennonite Women Canada Web Page:  
<http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/mwc/>

Mennonite Women Canada Blog:  
<http://mennowomencanada.blogspot.ca/>

Mennonite Women Canada Facebook Page:  
<http://mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/2009>

Spiritual Growth Assistance Fund:  
[www.mennonitechurch.ca/mwc/ministries.htm](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/mwc/ministries.htm)

Pennies and Prayer Legacy Fund:  
[www.mennonitechurch.ca/mwc/golden.htm](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/mwc/golden.htm)

Bible Study Guide:  
<http://store.mennomedia.org/Courageous-Women-of-the-Bible-P1525.aspx>

Radical Journey:  
<http://www.mennonitemission.net/Serve/RJ/Pages/Home.aspx>



*CPT Iraqi Kurdistan accompanies farmers who lose their land to multi-national oil companies.*

Change and transition have been the operative themes for Christian Peacemaker Teams in the past two years. In April 2013, a week long strategic planning workshop for CPT Support Team culminated in a new leadership model. Subsequently, Sarah Thompson has been selected as the new Executive Director of CPT, and candidates for the two new positions of Communication and Engagement Director and Project Director are now being recruited. Carol Rose has transitioned into an Outgoing Director role with completion of her term in August 2014. Rebecca Johnson has left her Program Coordinator and Aboriginal Justice Team (AJT) Support Coordinator roles and we welcome newly selected John Vallely to the PSC (Project Support Coordinator) role for the AJT. He comes from the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek First Nations community in Ontario and brings a rich background of experience.

The MAPR (Mission and Presentation Re-visioning) process has drawn to a close with CPT adopting a new Mission Statement, "Building partnerships to transform violence and oppression" which more clearly reflects the ongoing international, inclusive work of CPT. An additional Vision Statement and a Values Statement have been developed, along with a new logo.

New program initiatives include a CPT Europe sponsored Migrant Justice delegation to Greece where militarization of Europe's external borders causes extensive injustice, suffering and death. This may result in an invitation for a CPT presence in this area for the summer of

2014. A CPT Europe Convergence was held in the Netherlands in April.

A first time CPT training was held in Iraqi Kurdistan (IK) in March, 2014, with participants from Poland, Germany, and two from Iraqi Kurdistan, which will further solidify local partnerships. Kathy Thiessen from Winnipeg, as a member of the IK team, did a great deal of planning and organizing for this training. The IK team has been busy hosting international delegations, conducting non-violence trainings for both High School students, and for villagers resisting oil exploration on their lands by Exxon Mobil. Tensions remain between the KRG (Kurdish Regional Government) and the Iraqi Central Government about oil and disputed territories rich in oil. As invited members of the Federation of Civil Society Organizations of Sulaimani, the team continues advocating for basic human rights, including on behalf of Syrian refugees in the area. Last fall, the IK team served as International Observers of the Parliamentary elections of the Kurdistan Regional Government.

The Aboriginal Justice Team had a four month presence last summer in New Brunswick to stand in solidarity with the First Nations Community of Elsipogtog, in resisting shale gas fracking. In collaboration with Steve Heinrichs, Director, Indigenous Relations from Mennonite Church Canada, AJT members Peter Haresnape and John Vallely attended the Royal Proclamation Celebration in Great Britain. With MennoMedia, CPT Canada has also held several public events promoting the book *Buffalo Shout, Salmon*

*Cry* with guest speakers who authored chapters of the book.

The human rights situation in Colombia has not improved, and the leaders and communities who are reclaiming their lands still face a high risk of death and displacement. One such community, Las Pavas, has received the National Peace Prize in recognition of its nonviolent struggle. CPT continues to accompany this community with presence and advocacy. There are four full time Canadian members on the team, three of whom identify as Mennonites from Ontario.

Palestine remains a conflict area with violations of basic human rights under Israeli military occupation. Accompanying school children and monitoring check points and events within Firing Zone 918 in the South Hebron Hills keep the team engaged. A major concern has been the denial of entry into Israel, of four male CPT members in the past year. This denial is being challenged through the Israeli court system.

One of the current challenges is to encourage and maintain healthy financial support for ministries that CPT does on behalf of Mennonite Church Canada as well as engaging in fundraising activities in the US. Accordingly, Ted & Company Theatre Works has produced a "Peace, Pies, and Prophets" event which has generated funds throughout the USA and Canada. A second initiative is a series of "Plowing and Planting" meetings to appeal to major donors. CPT Canada members also engage in numerous public speaking events, nonviolence trainings and other educational activities which generate additional income.

We value our relationship with Mennonite Church Canada constituents and thank God for their support through prayers, donations, and involvement in CPT delegations and other activities.

Peace always and all ways!

Esther Kern  
CPT Canada Coordinator



*Typhoon survivors in the Philippines create makeshift shelters, November, 2013*

MCC's core mission is to share "God's love and compassion for all in the name of Christ by responding to basic human needs and working for peace and justice." Major and low-profile disasters, during the past year, have provided ample opportunity for MCC, and for our supporting church constituencies, to demonstrate God's love and compassion.

MCC is present when the major disasters strike.

The political crisis in Syria continues unabated. The value of our overall program to date now exceeds \$15M including cash contributions, governmental grants via the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, and material resources.

An estimated 14 million people in the Philippines were affected when Typhoon Haiyan made landfall on November 8, 2013. To date, MCC has raised approximately \$4.3M in donations and has allocated over \$4M for this ongoing response, much of it to be used in the construction of new typhoon resistant shelters.

MCC received approximately \$16M to respond to the January 2010 Haiti earthquake. To date, approximately \$11.8M had been spent. The remainder of funds will be allocated over the next two years with a primary focus on housing and improving livelihoods.

The East Africa food crisis is a major disaster but has received far less profile than Syria, Philippines and Haiti. In Spring 2011, MCC increased its response to food insecurity in the Horn of Africa. As of May 2013, over one million Somali refugees have sought shelter in neighbouring countries. Our response has focused on three main objectives: emergency food assistance for internally displaced persons, and refugees, long-term food security efforts,

and water, sanitation and hygiene education for Somali refugees. Of the \$5M raised for the East Africa food crisis, \$3.7M has been allocated. The remaining balance will focus on improving the food security in pastoralist communities that span the borders of South Sudan, Kenya and Uganda.

MCC is also present in many disasters that often go unnoticed in North America including: Support for displaced South Sudanese refugee children (\$60,000), flooding in Northern Gaza (\$70,000), Guatemala drought response and Nicaragua flood response (\$66,000), Eastern Congo conflict and support for internally displaced persons including food assistance, temporary shelter and volunteer repatriation of ex-combatants to Rwanda (\$450,000).

This is only a sampling of MCC's presence in the area of low-profile disasters. More examples could be shared as we work on your behalf around the globe.

MCC is present, visibly sharing God's love and compassion for all in the name of Christ. Our mission is made possible by the support of the thousands of volunteers, the prayers and financial support of people in our churches, and the confidence shown in MCC by development agencies of the Government of Canada. We are humbled to be part of this ministry of the church and we grateful for your financial generosity, volunteer commitment, counsel and prayers.

Submitted by Don Peters,  
Executive Director,  
Mennonite Central Committee Canada



*Carl Dube, MDS Project Director, and Chris Files, BCLTRT, give the keys to new homeowner, Jim, at his home dedication service. Jim's home was burned to the ground by the wildfires.*

**THANK YOU!** MDS is grateful for the support, presence, participation, enthusiasm, dedication, prayers, and encouragement of Mennonite Church Canada. You are part of a network of Anabaptist churches who have called us into being and continue to give us a mandate to touch lives, and nurture hope, faith and wholeness. MDS is not a para-church agency, but rather a ministry of the Anabaptist church in Canada and the United States. We carry out the work you have delegated to us.

In February a group of 15 Conrad Grebel students spent their reading week serving those who were severely impacted by Hurricane Sandy. Through MDS these Grebelites were able to bring open hearts and minds to a rebuilding site, and serve strangers. By so doing, they were a part of realizing the mission of the church, and of MDS, to nurture hope, faith and wholeness in others. And they discovered that they too were blessed in the process. One of the students remarked that although she wouldn't have thought that she had anything in common with the 'conservative old men' with whom they served on the project site, '...none of that mattered, we got along well and worked together well!' This is one of the many ways that MDS helps build and strengthen the church inter-generationally, even while seeking to serve others who are most often outside the church.

Approximately 80 Mennonite Church Canada congregations contributed financially to MDS in 2013, and 150 congregations have Congregational Contact Persons to facilitate the communication link between the congregation and MDS (in both directions). We have about 450 Mennonite Church Canada people who have served from 1 day to several months in 2013. Mennonite Church Canada persons also serve in MDS volunteer

and staff leadership at the Unit, national, and binational levels. MDS is a ministry of Mennonite Church Canada!

The largest project of the last year for MDSers in Canada has been the recovery project in High River, Alberta. MDS is running a full volunteer base camp and is busy rebuilding! We invite you to come and serve! Remember that Pastors can sign up for our 'Pastors to Projects' program and the full cost, including travel, is covered for them and their spouse. Contact our office to find out more!

Are you heading to Mennonite World Conference Assembly in July 2015 in Harrisburg, PA? If so, make sure to sign up for the MDS service project. We will be framing two houses on site to demonstrate the work of MDS. The houses will then be transported to someone who lost their home in a disaster.

Thank you to Mennonite Church Canada for your belief that MDS is one of the many, important ways that you grow a faithful church, form leaders, and BE the church in the midst of its context. We only exist because the church wants us to exist as a collaborative network serving those affected by disasters.

Prepared by Janet Plenert  
Director of Canadian Operations

#### **Region V Canada**

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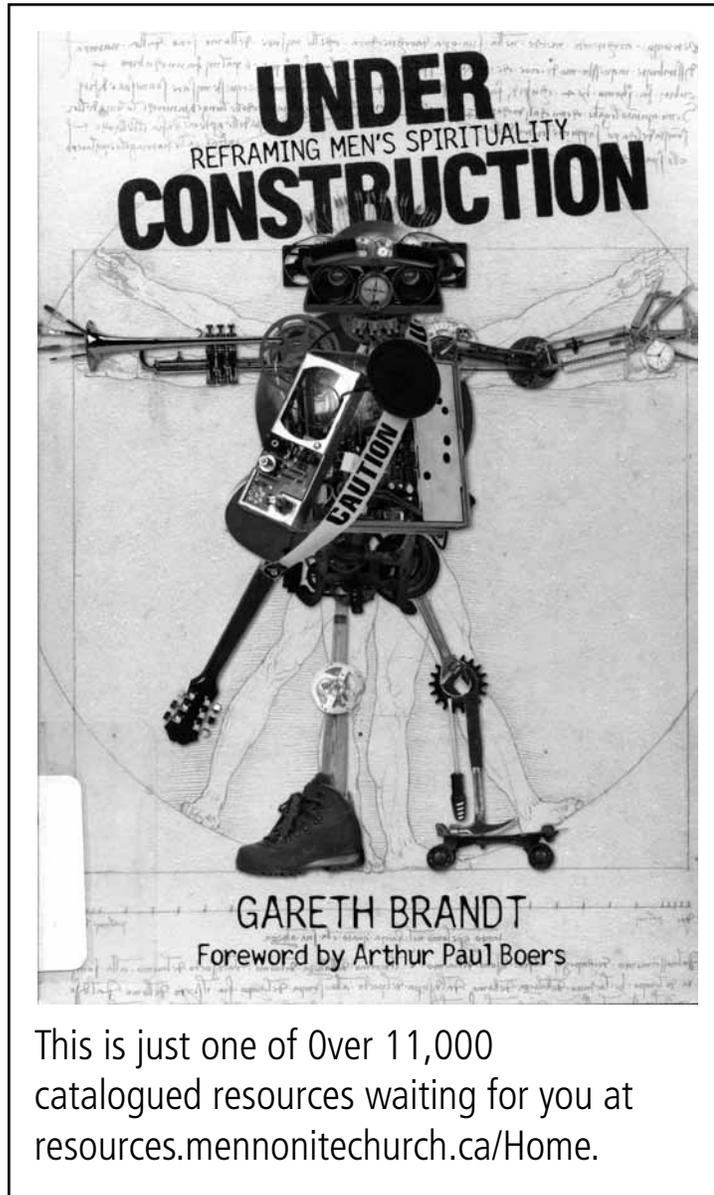
Mennonite Men, an organization of the Mennonite Church, is a jointly owned partnership of Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church USA. It is an organization that aims to provide an Anabaptist perspective on manhood that speaks to current issues.

The priorities of Mennonite Men are three fold: to help men develop fellowship groups, to develop spiritual resources for men, and to raise funds to help young congregations build or purchase their first meeting house through the JoinHands Church Grant Program. A board of twelve regionally chosen members meets annually to manage the work of Mennonite Men.

A collection of resources is available to congregations wanting assistance with beginning local men's groups. Profiles of active men's groups are being gathered with contacts for local leaders willing to help with the initial work of organizing a men's group. Use [mm@mennonitemen.org](mailto:mm@mennonitemen.org) or contact your Area Church coordinator for specific information. Also use the email to report on activities of your men's group.

In addition to purely local initiatives, Mennonite Men has sponsored a number of Area Church wide men's gatherings across Canada in recent times. At the time of writing this report, plans are well underway for a men's retreat at Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp & Retreat Centre, in New Hamburg Ontario the weekend of June 20-21. Gareth Brandt, author of *Under Construction – Reframing Men's Spirituality*, will be sharing insights from his book. Additional input will be provided by Scott Brubaker-Zehr, Don Neufeld, Ralph Brubaker and others. This promises to be a very impactful weekend.

Plans are also underway for a men and boys breakfast at Peace Mennonite Church in Richmond, B.C. Craig Thiessen, recently graduated from the Master of Divinity program at Regent College, will be the key note speaker and will be addressing the topic "Becoming the Man you want to be...being the Man others



This is just one of Over 11,000 catalogued resources waiting for you at [resources.mennonitechurch.ca/Home](http://resources.mennonitechurch.ca/Home).

want to become." This event is planned for May 17.

JoinHands, the service component of Mennonite Men has given more than \$1.7 million to 61 congregations since 1985. Two grants were given in 2013. Tinsae Kristos Evangelical Church in Lancaster received a grant in March and the Albuquerque Mennonite Church received its grant in December.

As part of our commitment to the global church, Mennonite Church Canada Witness was given a \$10,000 tithe grant in January 2014 to assist the Macau Mennonite Church in acquiring its own house of worship.

Mennonite Men is enlisting additional individuals and groups willing to commit themselves to contribute \$100 twice annually to support church grants to new congregations building their first meeting house. Please contact the undersigned if you can help.

Check our new website for information and resources. [www.mennonitemnen.org](http://www.mennonitemnen.org). Your Area Church JoinHands coordinators are Clarence Yip in BC, Murray Logan in Saskatchewan, Abe Wiebe in Manitoba and Don Neufeld in MCEC.

Marvin Baergen,  
on behalf of Mennonite Men

This is another good year for MVSA in many respects, and we are grateful for the opportunity to play such an important part in the lives of young adults who volunteer in our program, and the service they provide to the sponsoring congregations and the agencies in which they serve. We believe the MVSA program continues to be a valuable Christian Service opportunity for young adults, and a blessing for the sponsoring congregations and the communities in which they serve.

Here is a brief report of each Unit:

**From Winnipeg:** The Winnipeg Unit had 6 volunteers again this year, with two being sent by Christliche Dienste, two from Eirene, and one couple sent directly by their home congregation in Bielefeld, Germany. So, all 6 are from Germany, with 4 young women, and two young men.

They have bonded very well and form a great Unit. Their placements include two MCC Thrift Stores, Winnipeg Harvest, Carter Early Learning Centre, Project Peacemakers, Hospitality House (a refugee program) and Bethel Mennonite Church, the home congregation. Splitting time between two agencies in two cases, has also worked out well.

We are particularly pleased with how this group is participating in the life of our congregation. There is great musical talent, and they enjoy working with the youth and community outreach programs, and have become quite visible in the congregation.

2014 marks our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the Winnipeg Unit. Although this program is very gratifying, one of our challenges is to maintain an active Support Committee. This is a lot of work, and requires a committee of at least 5 people. Financially, with this size of group, the MVSA program has been building a significant reserve fund, and has been able to contribute to the Sharing Fund.

**From Lethbridge:** The committee members are Doug Wiebe, Dennis Neufeldt, Edgar Dueck, Rebecca Janzen, Harold Funk, and Friederike Granzow.

Various retreats were held in spring including the EIRENE (German recruiting agency) retreat in Georgia, the Christliche Dienste (German recruiting agency) retreat in Winnipeg, the MVS retreat at Camp Valaqua from May 17-19 and several volunteers also attended the Women's Fellowship retreat at Sylvan Lake at the end of May.

Activities planned throughout the year included a hike to Crypt Lake, a canoe trip, and skiing trips. We were all thrilled that Stefan had decided to stay another year, working at "Streets Alive". This brings the total current group to 4, with two young women, and two young men. Agency placements are with Streets Alive, ARC, PEAK, an MCC Thrift Store, and work in the congregation.

On Oct. 27 the volunteers hosted an open house. They welcomed the congregation and received generous donations. Both the previous group of volunteers and the present ones have contributed to our congregation with their musical talents, storytelling, Parent's Night Out, and taking part in a variety of activities. They are a joy to work with and get to know. Our thanks goes to the congregation for including them in their lives and making their time here memorable.

**From Edmonton:** The Edmonton MVS Unit continues to rely on EIRENE and Christliche Dienste (CD) to secure volunteers. For 2012-13 the Committee was able to secure two placements—Ten Thousand Villages and the MCC Thrift Store—which allowed two volunteers from Germany to join the unit. In addition, the Committee was able to secure a placement for a Canadian volunteer with the Mustard Seed. Thus, the unit has 3 volunteers and 1 roommate (this is a doctoral student who has provided nice continuity for the past 3 years).

It was hard to say goodbye (as it always is) to the volunteers. But, in August, the Committee and Holyrood Mennonite Church welcomed 3 new volunteers from Germany. These volunteers serve at the MCC Thrift Store, the Waldorf School (a new agency partner), and Ten Thousand Villages. We had one position with L'Arche open but could not find another volunteer.

The unit is sponsored by Holyrood Mennonite Church and is supported by First Mennonite Church and Lendrum Mennonite Brethren Church. The house was furnished by donations from these three congregations which continue to supply items such as a small freezer or bikes. In addition, the volunteers are invited to various activities and functions by church members which allows them to experience a little more of Canada.

Overall, the MVS unit is doing quite well. The Committee does exit interviews with outgoing volunteers, and these informal conversations suggest that the volunteers have a great year where they have learned about themselves and enjoy serving at their agencies. The MVS Unit is strong and self-sufficient. The serving agencies are very impressed (and pleased) with our volunteers. The MVS Support Committee continues to work with current volunteers and with the ongoing tasks associated with finding placements and recruiting the next group of volunteers with a current focus on volunteers from Germany.

**From Montreal:** Montreal has struggled for several years in maintaining an MVSA Unit, and has not had any placements this year. The congregation has now made the decision to discontinue the Committee, and terminate the MVSA Unit. We wish them well, as they pursue other avenues of community outreach.

Submitted by Louie Sawatzky  
on behalf of MVSA

**ENGAGE:** to interlock with; to hold the attention of; to bring together or interlock; to begin and carry on an enterprise or activity; to do or take part in something

Vision: Healing and Hope (1995)

*God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace, so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world.*  
"-Vision: Healing and Hope" (1995)

Within Mennonite Church Canada's Vision: Healing and Hope, the mandate of Church Engagement is to develop relationships between Canadian congregations and international and national ministries, work with congregations and individuals in strengthening their missional vision, and to work diligently at increasing our generosity in support of Mennonite Church Canada ministries.

#### **CHURCH ENGAGEMENT BUDGETS:**

Fiscal Year Ending 2013: \$698,892

Fiscal Year Ending 2014: \$644,453

Fiscal Year Ending 2015: \$655,534

#### **WHAT IS CHURCH ENGAGEMENT?**

When the ministry of Church Engagement emerged within Mennonite Church Canada in 2010, there were lighthearted questions: Who's getting married? Where is the ring? Who will be the bridesmaids and groomsmen?

The marriage metaphor is appropriate for a national church family: Prior to an engagement, a couple gets to know one another; an engagement signifies the first step of a marriage commitment; the couple participates together in many activities. A successful engagement results in a lifelong commitment to one another.

Engagement also has another meaning. Its root is "to engage." Merriam Webster says engagement is 'to begin and carry on an enterprise or activity, to do or take part in something' (excerpted).

The role of Church Engagement at Mennonite Church Canada is to involve our wider Mennonite Church family – individuals, congregations, pastors and area churches to "to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace, so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world."

#### **AS OF MAR. 14, 2014**

- YouTube views: 65,986 views (launched Dec., 2007)
- Facebook Group: 555 members (launched April, 2010)
- Twitter followers: 455 (launched Feb., 2012)
- Facebook Page Fans: 354 (launched July, 2013)

Elsewhere in this Report Book you will find inspiring and informative reports from the two primary ministry areas of Mennonite Church Canada: Witness, and Formation. The goal of Church Engagement is to help our national church family discover and participate in God's work in the world that extends beyond congregational, provincial, and national boundaries.

When staff and leadership at Mennonite Church Canada offices hear stories of life changing ministry from congregations and area churches, we are inspired! We hope that your congregation and area church will likewise be inspired and enriched when you engage with God's work beyond your community. And we love it when you share your stories with us!

#### **WHAT WE ENGAGE**

Mennonite Church Canada offers two primary ministries that promise to enrich your spiritual life.

1. The work of Witness is brought to your doorstep by encouraging a partnership with an international ministry and international workers in one or more of 25 countries. You are invited to connect with God's activity in Latin America, South America, Africa, Asia, Europe, and and with our Indigenous neighbours in Canada. Church Engagement also organizes the Canadian itineration schedules of international workers when they return to Canada. If your congregation would like a visit from international workers, please contact us.
2. We help to promote the work of Christian Formation to offer Canada's largest selection of Mennonite/Anabaptist resources for spiritual growth via its Resource Centre (online at <http://resources.mennonitechurch.ca/Home>); develops worship resources and is a development partner for well known items such as our hymnals and Sunday School curriculums; collects and preserves family and congregational histories via the Mennonite Heritage Centre; connects the Mennonite, Christian, and interfaith artistic community via the Mennonite Heritage Centre Gallery, and much more.

Church Engagement is also the key logistics organizer of Assemblies, meeting with the host area church, preparing registration processes, booking meeting places and rooms, meals, volunteers, coordinating display areas, and more. Church Engagement supports Formation as they prepare worship and music and share how they resource the church, Witness for its work of sharing ministry programs, and the General Board as they prepare discernment sessions. During 2012-2013 staff made 188 visits to congregations. We are delighted to receive invitations to visit.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS**

On the following pages you will find reports from the ministries of Mennonite Foundation of Canada and the Canadian Mennonite with whom Church Engagement regularly relates.

## A FEW FACTS ABOUT MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA'S ONLINE PRESENCE:

Website stats (averages) from October 1, 2013 to Jan. 31, 2014:

- [www.mennonitechurch.ca](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca): 11,429 unique visitors/month
- [www.liveforpeace.org](http://www.liveforpeace.org): 1,130 visitors/month
- [www.churchpandemicresources.ca](http://www.churchpandemicresources.ca): 420 unique visitors/month
- [www.alternativeservice.org](http://www.alternativeservice.org): 982 unique visitors/month

## STAFF & COUNCIL

Thank you so much to the staff and Church Engagement Council members who have chosen serve the church in this way.

### STAFF:

Vic Thiessen, Executive Minister, Church Engagement  
 Coreena von Kampen, Executive Assistant  
 Daniel Horne, Director, Partnership Development  
 Jason Martin, Partnership Development Facilitator, Ontario  
 Monica Krahn, Partnership Coordinator  
 Dan Dyck, Director, Communications  
 Deborah Froese, Director, News Services  
 Ryan Roth Bartel, Lead Graphic Designer  
 Moses Falco, Graphic Designer  
 Grant Klassen, Webservant

### CHURCH ENGAGEMENT COUNCIL

Artur Bergen (Eben-Ezer MC, BC)  
 Vince Friesen (First MC, Edmonton, AB)  
 Emily Toews (Northstar MC, SK)  
 Craig Neufeld (Rosthern, MC, SK)  
 Dori Zerbe-Cornelsen (Hope MC, MB)  
 Harold Peters-Fransen (Elim MC, MB)  
 Bryan Moyer Suderman (Community MC, ON)

Submitted by



Vic Thiessen, Executive Minister,  
Church Engagement



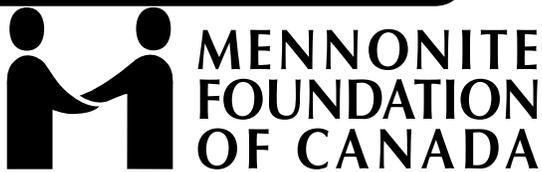
Vince Friesen, Chair,  
Church Engagement Council

## IN ADDITION, CHURCH ENGAGEMENT PROMOTES INVOLVEMENT IN:

- International Learning Tours (in 2013 Learning Tours took congregational partners to China and the United Kingdom)
- Getting to know our Aboriginal neighbours in Canada (Mennonites have been part of all of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation events)
- National Assemblies, such as *Wild Hope: Faith for an Unknown Season*, and this coming summer's bi-national Native Assembly, *Ears to Earth, Eyes to God*.
- Legacy giving and estate planning through Mennonite Foundation. Church Engagement appoints two members to the board of MFC.

## COMMUNICATING WITH YOU VIA:

- PrayerNet – a monthly prayer letter: [www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1943](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1943)
- WoW International Report – a 5 times per year update on international ministry, and worker/ministry profiles suitable for bulletin inserts, and/or on screen projection [www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/2169](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/2169)
- The WoW Witness worker update: [www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1859](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1859)
- Weekly bulletin announcements: [www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/2301](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/2301)
- Equipping, a 10 times per year resource packet for individuals and congregations which also contains the Resource Centre's *Resource Update*
- Intotemak – a national Indigenous Relations news magazine: [www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/2300](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/2300)
- A You Tube channel with over 100 videos: [www.youtube.com/mennonitechurchca](http://www.youtube.com/mennonitechurchca)
- A monthly 15 minute radio podcast called Church Matters available in iTunes and many other popular podcast aggregators, or directly from here: [www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1893](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1893)
- Speaker's Bureau: Invite someone to speak at your church on a variety of topics: [www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1899](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1899)
- Special events, such as Hockey and Faith (January, Abbotsford); A Celebration of Words (January, Winnipeg);
- Gift guides and ways to support wider mission and ministry: [www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/2302](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/2302)
- Generosity Reports - What your giving supports: [www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/2303](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/2303)
- The Canadian Mennonite magazine. Church Engagement appoints 4 members to the 12 member board of Canadian Mennonite Publishing Services.



As each has received a gift, employ it for one another as good stewards of God's varied grace. *1 Peter 4:10*



Andrew Epp



Arnie Friesen



Dori Zerbe Cornelsen



Gary Sawatzky



Harold Penner



Kevin Davidson



Mike Strathdee



Sherri Grosz

**Mennonite Foundation of Canada and Mennonite Church Canada** continue to build on a relationship that is valuable and important for both organizations. MFC Board Members from MC Canada are Karin Krahn and Abe Fehr.

**Our core service is encouraging and enabling generosity.**

Supported by 4 values:

1. God owns, we manage.
2. God is generous.
3. God asks for our whole selves.
4. God invites us to share.

In 2013, our clients gave \$14 million to charity using the services of MFC.

**MFC Services include:**

- will & estate planning
- management for charitable gifts and funds
- fund management for charities
- loans for MC Canada churches and related organizations
- financial stewardship education resources, presentations and seminars.

**3 new MFC Stewardship Resources produced in 2013:**

*available in print and/or online.*

- ***Giving your first fruits: Money, faith and worship*** – a collection of writings by Edwin Friesen
- ***Living Life Backwards*** – a collection of inspiring short stories and resources for people who choose to reflect more, risk more and respond more in ways that can make a lasting difference
- ***Making Change*** – a 4-part video series designed to open conversations around money, faith and stewardship.

All MFC materials are free and most are available online. Consultations are always free and confidential.

**8 MFC Stewardship Consultants** *servicing the national church – locally*

**1-800-772-3257**

**MennoFoundation.ca**

## EDITORIAL HIGHLIGHTS

A higher volume of letters indicated our readers are engaged with the issues we have featured this year—confessing our fossil fuel sins, a three-part series on the use of scriptures, wrestling with our identity, the art of hope, chronic suffering, healing of sexual abuse, the atonement and imagining more of the Advent story—to name a few. More and more it seems to me, as editor, our readers, as faithful Christians, are seeing *Canadian Mennonite* as the village square of the denomination where we come together around a common faith. Of the 1,098 total stories, 240 were about the church at work in Ontario, 218 from Manitoba, 98 from British Columbia, 61 from Saskatchewan, 50 from Alberta, 4 from Quebec and 2 from New Brunswick. Letter writers had comments about the *Canadian Mennonite*, Will Braun's articles/commentary, our editorial policy, Roman Catholics, Old Colony Mennonites, Canada Revenue Agency, biblical interpretation and Troy Watson's column—in that order of frequency.

## SOME LOGISTICS

Circulation for your biweekly magazine has held steady at a little more than 13,000 households through the Every Home Plan. Under that Plan—in the last year of a five-year Publishing Partner Agreement—all of the partners held to their funding levels except Mennonite Church Canada, which at \$115,980 was down \$25,978 from 2012 as per consultation. MC Alberta donated \$7,499; MCBC, \$10,256; MCEC, \$71,672; MC Sask, \$18,460 and MCM, \$27,691

Of the **\$656,147 income**, \$256,215, or 38 per cent, came from Mennonite Church Canada and Area Churches.

Total expenses came in at **\$690,356** when adjusted for depreciation, giving us a **\$34,209** shortfall. Operating as the Canadian Mennonite Publishing Service Inc., with a covenantal partnership to the denomination, CMPS has two of its 10

board members **representing Mennonite Church Canada** in the persons of Doreen Martens from Ontario and Les Klassen Hamm from Saskatchewan. Still awaiting to be named are two vacancies to be filled by Mennonite Church Canada in fulfilling this partnership, bringing its representation to four members and the total to 12—a requirement of our bylaws. Tobi Thiessen, from Toronto, continues as board chair.

## HIGHLIGHTS

In an effort to strengthen our partnership and in view of a renewal of that partnership for the next segment of our joint journey, the editor/publisher engaged in Partner Visits, the content for which was a writer's workshop which attempted to increase coverage and get more people engaged at the local level with our regional correspondents as we increase our coverage of area church activity. It should be noted that in return for the support of the denomination and area churches, CM invests some \$97,480 in regional correspondents' wages to give on-the-ground coverage to our collective story as Canadian Mennonites. Most of these visits have been successfully completed, except for one in Ontario. There was a new level of engagement with CM by those attending, resulting, hopefully, in stronger ties and increased readership. MCBC didn't see the need for a writers' workshop, but opted instead for a designated meeting with their Leadership Council on the weekend of their AGM, Feb. 21-22.

## STAFF CHANGES

Late in the year we took steps to increase our engagement with our online edition with the hiring, half-time, of Virginia (Ginny) Hostetler, with a grant from the local Working Centre. Ginny comes



to us with editorial experience on an international level and is in the process of helping to re-design our website, making it more user friendly and a gateway to a higher social media presence. Her husband, D. Michael Hostetler, is our new advertising representative, who with his experience also as a videographer, has produced a new, updated video which focuses on CM "leading the conversation" in our developing Anabaptist story. He is also promoting a campaign of ads that hopefully rallies our many Mennonite partner institutions around this story.

Dick Benner, Editor/Publisher  
Canadian Mennonite

In his report to delegates at the 2012 Assembly in Vancouver, my predecessor, Gordon Peters, wrote, "Watching the financial reports come to General Board on a monthly basis is usually like a roller coaster ride – there are many highs and lows, and before you know it, the ride is over!"

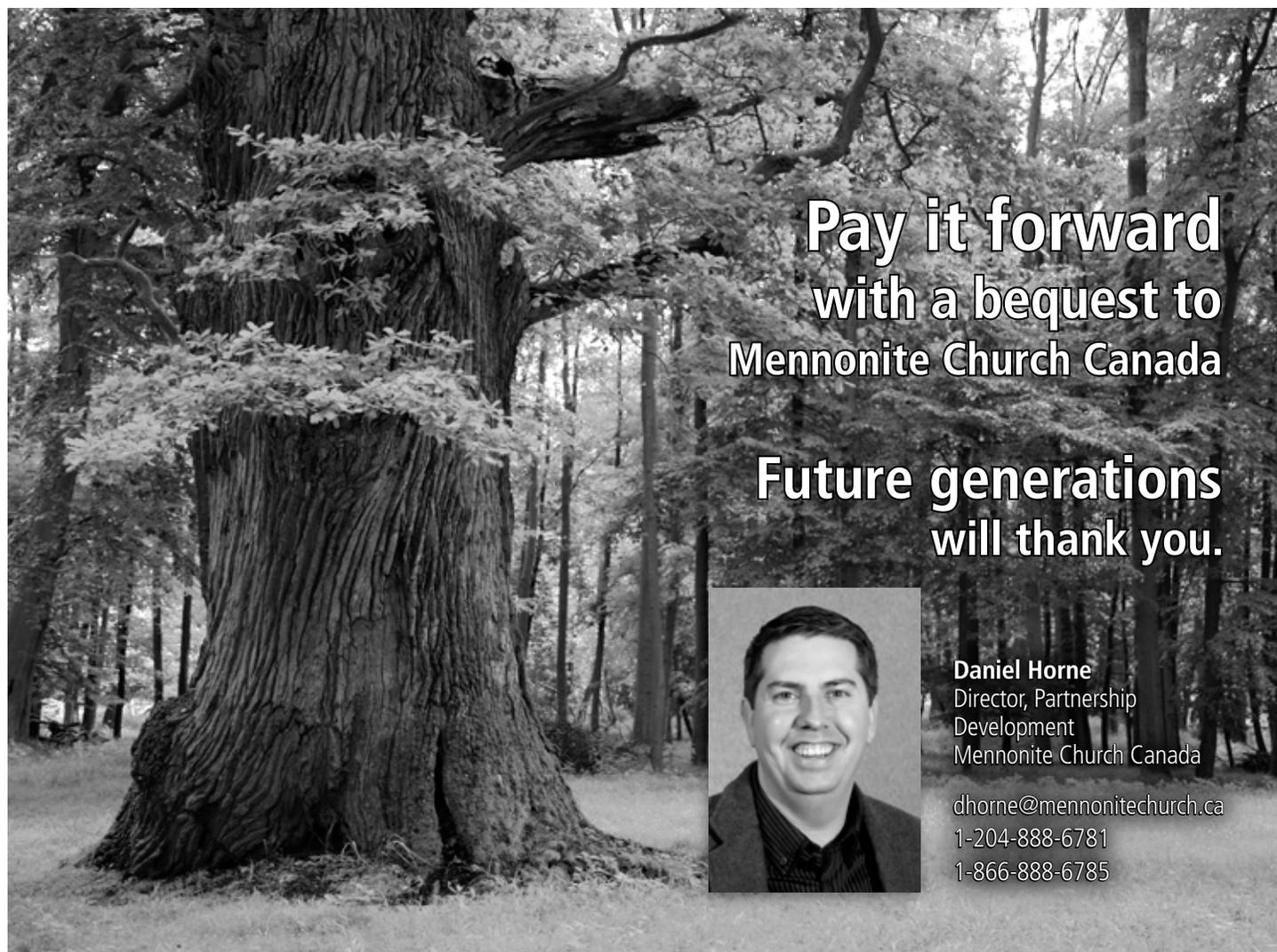
To continue with the fairground analogy, we have moved from the roller coaster to the Ferris wheel. Actions taken previously have help achieve a balanced pace that still sees us move somewhat up and down with the flow of finances but the year has been good, in that we have arrived at a place in line with or better than budgeted and have been able to plan forward for the coming year without making any negative adjustments.

The giving patterns are still skewed toward certain quarterly cycles and we are working toward building up reserves to keep things on an even keel. What I see at Mennonite Church Canada in terms of stewardship and service, resource availability and missional activity being enacted on our behalf is exciting and it is our support – through financial giving, through prayers, through

volunteering and through local dissemination of stories about what MC Canada is doing – that keeps us united in spirit and in action.

As we continue to move forward, re-visioning and re-shaping our structures and our activities, I hope that we can continue to see and talk about Mennonite Church Canada within our congregations as we and our, not as us and them. It is important that we maintain our sense of community and our sense of God's will as we move forward. I encourage all to stay connected, stay informed and stay involved and also to encourage those in our congregations to do the same.

John Goossen, Treasurer



**Pay it forward  
with a bequest to  
Mennonite Church Canada**

**Future generations  
will thank you.**



**Daniel Horne**  
Director, Partnership  
Development  
Mennonite Church Canada

[dhorne@mennonitechurch.ca](mailto:dhorne@mennonitechurch.ca)  
1-204-888-6781  
1-866-888-6785

The operations portfolio includes the functions of Property Management, Information Technology (IT), Pension Plan, Human Resources, Records Management, and Program and Personnel Evaluations. Following are some of the highlights of our activities in the last years.

### **Property Management and Information Technology:**

Although the property here in Winnipeg could sure use a thorough round of repainting and renovating, no projects have been started. With the joint Canadian Mennonite University/ Mennonite Church Canada Resource Centre construction well under way, once construction is complete and the move has been made, we will be left with space to shuffle around while some needed projects take place.

The upcoming vacancy will also provide some opportunities to rethink how that space is used, possibly leaving us with an area that could be made available for rent, if the right tenant were to come along.

In the information technology (IT) area, we began our approximately 3 to 4 year cycle of replacing older computer equipment. To administer the below-mentioned National Benefits Plan, we opted to go with a combination of the Standard Life-provided software and a separate database from Blackbaud. This new database is being used both for the benefits and pension administration, replacing our badly outdated Tolemac system.

**Pension Plan:** The committee members of the Pension Advisory Committee are Paul Klassen, Darryl Loewen, Ewald Boschmann, John Goosen, Randy Wiebe, and Kirsten Schroeder. Although there are 29 investment options in the plan, a large majority of members continue to invest in the Socially Responsible Asset Allocation Fund. As a result the committee focuses much of its attention on this key investment option. This year the committee negotiated further reductions in investment management fees (IMFs) for plan members on a number of funds, including the Socially Responsible Asset Allocation Fund. Educational webinars for members and treasurers continue to provide helpful information for retirement planning and administering the pension plan.

**Human Resources (HR):** HR addresses the organizational needs of the denomination's main office, national pension and benefits plans and the selection and screening of mission workers. Ongoing work includes preparing the pastors' salary scales, overseeing the reception desk, writing and updating HR policies, monitoring the privacy functions of the organization, and a variety of other tasks which support the healthy functioning of Mennonite Church Canada. Following is a list of highlights over the last two years.

**Staffing:** Since the writing of the last Assembly report, we have said goodbye to Cheryl Woelk, Short Term Mission Coordinator; Eric Olfert, Partnership Development Facilitator, AB & SK; Alf Redekopp, Director of the Mennonite Heritage Centre Archives & Gallery; Brent Charette, MCEC Church Engagement Minister; and Megan Kamei, Graphic Designer.

At the same time we were pleased to welcome new staff on-board: Kara Ledohowski (Receptionist-Administrative Assistant seconded to Term Administrative Assistant in the Executive Director's office); Moses Falco, Graphic Designer; Korey Dyck, Director of the Mennonite Heritage Centre Archives and Gallery; Tany Warkentin, Short Term Ministry Coordinator; Janelle Thiessen van Esch, Term Receptionist-Administrative Assistant; and Jason Martin, Partnership Development Facilitator, Eastern Canada.

The past two years were very busy with screening and placing a number of Long- and Short-Term Workers in ministry positions throughout the world (please see the Witness report for a list of placements). Each worker is thoroughly screened using a multi-step process. Since our last Assembly report, Human Resources have been involved in the screening of 18 Long-Term Witness Workers, 11 Short-Term Workers (with Tany Warkentin) and 4 people for Special Assignments.

**Health Insurance:** Two years in the making, by December 2013, the new National Benefits Plan was rolled out to all interested Mennonite Church Canada congregations and related organizations for their employees. Laura Zacharias has done a phenomenal job in processing all of the data and keeping things straight – thank you, Laura! The Mutual Aid Sharing Plan (MASP) that we use to insure our international Long-Term Witness Workers has also been undergoing a lot of alteration due to the Obama Administration Health Care changes. As the plan is incorporated in the States, we have had to seek compliance with new American legislation, which has been an ongoing challenge for administrators and workers alike.

Kirsten Schroeder,  
Director,  
Human Resources

Randy Wiebe, Chief  
Financial Officer



## FINANCIAL MATTERS – REPORT ON THE FISCAL YEARS ENDING 2013 AND 2014

On the following pages you will find the audited financial statements for the period dated February 1, 2012 to January 31, 2014.

I am again honored to have this opportunity to report to you on Mennonite Church Canada's fiscal year ends. It is a privilege to be writing this report for you and hopefully shed some light on the financial picture of Mennonite Church Canada.

Let me set the stage by reviewing some of the changes approved and implemented in the fiscal year end (FYE) 2012. Decisions were made to remove Multi-cultural Ministry, Youth Ministry, and Education and Nurture ministry from the budget. The frequency of adult Assemblies was reduced to biennial gatherings and significant shifts in responsibility at the Executive Staff level were made as our numbers were reduced. The donation target for FYE 2013 was set at \$3,516,000. This budget was meant to challenge constituents to respond to our churches' needs; the bar was set high. What ensued was less than encouraging. Not only did we not meet our budget, but at \$3,272,000 we had again fallen lower than the year before by a sizeable \$173,000. As a bright note, our investments returned to positive gains, exceeding what we had budgeted and program expenses were tightly held in check allowing us to balance the budget without needing to draw on reserves.

Another positive note which actually helped us strengthen our financial position in the midst of a down year was the fact that we received over \$500,000 net proceeds from previous jointly owned international assets, administered by Mennonite Mission Network as part of the decade-old bi-national asset distribution agreement.

Therefore, even though the year presented its fair share of difficulties, in the end, much of our planned ministry was performed and our reserve funds grew after all was said and done.

Another significant change in FYE 2013 was the adoption of Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations (ASNPO). The FYE 2013 statements were the first audited financial statements prepared in accordance with ASNPO, but unless you downloaded them from our website, few of you will have seen them. By now, this transition is a year behind us and these statements again look very similar to what has been presented in the past.

Fiscal year end 2014 performed well. Overall, our budgeted donation target was met and exceeded with a total of \$3,419,000 in donations and bequests. Donations alone were just over \$104,000 ahead of budget and ahead of FYE 2013, but they were also \$69,000 below our FYE 2012 actual. So we exceeded our previous lowest point, but we were still short of the year before.

On the Statement of Financial Position for the fiscal year ending 2014, I would like to highlight the cash line. Due to the unexpected proceeds from assets liquidated overseas in FYE 2013 and the strong results obtained in FYE 2014, which also included some extraordinary revenues, we ended the year with a significantly improved cash position. Accounts receivables were lower and accounts payables were higher. Another sign of financial strength is the increase in Investments. On the flip side, you will notice that our internally restricted fund balances are also significantly higher.

In the Statement of Operations we continue to reflect the three categories within the General Fund:

1. Core ministry including the Witness, Formation, and Church Engagement Council and General Board: Overall, you can see that the total expenditures in these program areas decreased. If we look at this a bit more closely we see that Witness and Formation program expenses were actually up and Church Engagement and General Board were lower. The reduction in General Board is mostly due to the \$200,000 it costs to hold an annual Assembly. Since there was no Assembly in July 2013, both income and expenses were reduced to reflect our new Assembly schedule.
2. Partner Programs: With help from individuals, corporations and congregations, Partner Programs enable ministry that general donations to the core budget do not cover. You will notice that the level of partner program expenses was almost flat compared to the prior year.
3. Contributions to Related Organizations: Mennonite Church Canada also works in partnership with other charitable organizations here in Canada and abroad. Support for these ministries increased compared to the year before, with the largest increase impacting the support for the Meseretes Kristos College. For further details of these three categories of ministry, please see Schedules A to F on pages 17 to 22 of the Audited Financial Statements.

Donation and bequest revenue for core Mennonite Church Canada programs increased by \$147,398 compared to last year. This increase included approximately \$104,000 donation increase and \$43,000 in bequests. Whenever I have a chance, I like to thank all the congregations, individuals and corporations that support Mennonite Church Canada. In general terms, most congregational giving either remained at similar levels as the year before or there was an increase in the support for the ministries we do together. Individual/Corporate giving rose compared to the year before, but the overall trend we see is a pattern of increase, followed by decrease, followed by increase, etc. We are blessed by very generous donors who play a significant role in helping Mennonite Church Canada ministries change lives from across the street and around the world. Thank you!

**LOOKING AHEAD: BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING 2015**

As per our finance policy we are obligated to present to you a balanced budget in which donation income does not exceed the previous year’s actual giving. Since donation income came in strong, this allowed us to present a budget that is balanced, doesn’t decrease any program expenditures and incorporated the annual cost of living adjustment to employee salaries, including the additional costs of employee participation in the National Benefits Plan and reintroduced fall face-to-face council meetings.

This year, I am presenting you only with one Budget spreadsheet, which contains the fiscal-year-end 2015 gross budget numbers in the centre column, and the fiscal-year-end 2014 actual and budget to the right.

**CONCLUSION**

Financially, the results presented in these

statements are a sight for sore eyes. We are in a much stronger position now than we were two years ago. Having said that, I need to stress that Mennonite Church Canada’s capacity for ministry is directly driven by the support received and ministry must be continually adjusted in accordance with revenue. We cannot count on unexpected proceeds from historically joint owned asset sales to keep our finances strong. We need to continue encouraging each other to get to know, to perform, to love and support the ministry that we share and the Church that we form in Mennonite Church Canada.

May God bless you.  
Randy Wiebe,  
Chief Financial Officer.



Donation:  
\$

Choose Project > Project > Gift Cart > Donor Information > Donate

**Support Taryn & Nathan Dirks**



Nathan and Taryn Dirks work in Gaborone, Botswana, with youth and young adults from local African Initiated Churches (AICs). Their focus is on community development and Bible teaching. Through their local partnerships they volunteer in local prisons, a school for special needs children, and coordinate development projects in urban agriculture and sports. They emphasize the local sustainability of these projects through the efforts of their young adult AIC partners. You can follow their blog here.

**Home Congregation:**  
Niagara United Mennonite Church, Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON  
**Suggested Gift:** \$500

church anabaptist peace  
Education leadership teaching  
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Financial Statements of

**MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA**

Year ended January 31, 2014

**MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA**

Audited Financial Statements  
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Year ended January 31, 2014

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of Mennonite Church Canada

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Mennonite Church Canada, which comprise the statement of financial position as at January 31, 2014, the statements of operations, changes in fund balances, and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

### *Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### *Auditors' Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on our judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, we consider internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.



*Opinion*

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Mennonite Church Canada as at January 31, 2014, its results of operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

*KPMG LLP*

Chartered Accountants

April 15, 2014

Winnipeg, Canada

**MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA**

## Statement of Financial Position

January 31, 2014, with comparative figures for 2013

			2014	2013
	General Fund	Capital Fund	Total	Total
<b>Assets</b>				
<b>Current assets:</b>				
Cash	\$ 2,368,910	\$ -	\$ 2,368,910	\$ 1,916,138
Accounts receivable (note 3)	305,913	-	305,913	401,993
Prepaid expenses	59,920	-	59,920	33,508
	2,734,743	-	2,734,743	2,351,639
Inter-fund balance receivable (payable)	(118,440)	118,440	-	-
Investments (note 4)	2,219,833	-	2,219,833	1,654,101
Capital assets (note 5)	-	72,102	72,102	83,088
	\$ 4,836,136	\$ 190,542	\$ 5,026,678	\$ 4,088,828

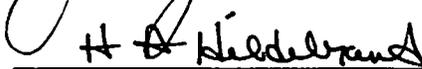
**Liabilities, Deferred Contributions and Fund Balances**

<b>Current liabilities:</b>				
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (note 6)	\$ 479,745	\$ -	\$ 479,745	\$ 310,949
Other loans payable	25,333	-	25,333	29,059
Deferred contributions (note 7)	1,391,632	3,739	1,395,371	1,153,825
<b>Fund balances:</b>				
Invested in capital assets	-	47,281	47,281	51,605
Externally restricted (note 8)	299,421	-	299,421	297,144
Internally restricted (note 9)	2,640,005	139,522	2,779,527	2,246,246
	2,939,426	186,803	3,126,229	2,594,995
	\$ 4,836,136	\$ 190,542	\$ 5,026,678	\$ 4,088,828

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

On behalf of the Board:

 Director

 Director

**MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA**

## Statement of Operations

Year ended January 31, 2014, with comparative figures for 2013

	General Fund	Capital Fund	2014 Total	2013 Total
<b>Revenues for MC Canada programs:</b>				
Donations and bequests	\$ 3,419,050	\$ —	\$ 3,419,050	\$ 3,271,652
Investment income	126,529	—	126,529	113,404
Sales, services and fees	216,205	—	216,205	296,382
Grants from partner agencies	53,140	—	53,140	74,055
Amortization of deferred contributions (note 7)	60,346	622	60,968	54,376
	3,875,270	622	3,875,892	3,809,869
<b>Revenues for partner programs:</b>				
Donations and bequests	441,837	—	441,837	440,229
Grants	10,500	—	10,500	10,910
Investment income	13,934	—	13,934	9,022
Sales, services and fees	55,828	—	55,828	28,151
Grants from partner agencies	6,082	—	6,082	—
Amortization of deferred contributions (note 7)	57,746	—	57,746	101,515
	585,927	—	585,927	589,827
<b>Revenues for related organizations:</b>				
Donation and bequests	628,871	—	628,871	416,437
Sales, services and fees	89,809	—	89,809	88,163
Grants from partner agencies	30,598	—	30,598	42,889
	749,278	—	749,278	547,489
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>5,210,475</b>	<b>622</b>	<b>5,211,097</b>	<b>4,947,185</b>
<b>Expenses for MC Canada programs:</b>				
Christian Witness Council (schedule A)	1,598,843	—	1,598,843	1,492,178
Christian Formation Council (schedule B)	741,456	—	741,456	648,823
Church Engagement Council (schedule C)	620,890	—	620,890	661,924
General Board (schedule D)	724,106	—	724,106	976,078
	3,685,295	—	3,685,295	3,779,003
Expenses for Partner Programs (schedule E)	584,014	—	584,014	563,489
Contributions to related organizations (schedule F)	749,278	—	749,278	547,489
Amortization of capital assets	—	51,191	51,191	51,763
<b>Total expenses and contributions</b>	<b>5,018,587</b>	<b>51,191</b>	<b>5,069,778</b>	<b>4,941,744</b>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses before the undernoted	191,888	(50,569)	141,319	5,441
Bi-national asset distribution (note 12)	98,395	—	98,395	507,362
Mennonite Church Eastern Canada (MCEC) (note 9(a))	289,243	—	289,243	—
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses</b>	<b>\$ 579,526</b>	<b>\$ (50,569)</b>	<b>\$ 528,957</b>	<b>\$ 512,803</b>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA**

## Statement of Changes in Fund Balances

Year ended January 31, 2014, with comparative figures for 2013

	Invested in capital assets	Externally restricted	Internally restricted	Unrestricted	2014 Total	2013 Total
<b>General Fund:</b>						
Balance, beginning of year	\$ -	\$ 297,144	\$ 2,114,669	\$ -	\$ 2,411,813	\$ 1,878,619
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	-	-	-	579,526	579,526	563,892
Transfer to Capital Fund (note 8)	-	-	-	(54,190)	(54,190)	(33,002)
Transfer from internally restricted funds (note 9)	-	-	(63,279)	63,279	-	-
Transfer to internally restricted funds (note 9)	-	-	588,615	(588,615)	-	-
Endowment contributions	-	2,277	-	-	2,277	2,304
<b>Balance, end of year</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 299,421</b>	<b>\$ 2,640,005</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 2,939,426</b>	<b>\$ 2,411,813</b>
<b>Capital Fund:</b>						
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 51,605	\$ -	\$ 131,577	\$ -	\$ 183,182	\$ 201,269
Deficiency of revenues over expenses	(50,569)	-	-	-	(50,569)	(51,089)
Transfer from General Fund (note 9)	6,040	-	48,150	-	54,190	33,002
Transfer from internally restricted funds (note 9)	40,205	-	(40,205)	-	-	-
<b>Balance, end of year</b>	<b>\$ 47,281</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 139,522</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 186,803</b>	<b>\$ 183,182</b>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA**

## Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended January 31, 2014, with comparative figures for 2013

	2014	2013
Cash provided by (used in):		
Operations:		
Excess of revenues over expenses	\$ 528,957	\$ 512,803
Items not involving cash:		
Amortization of capital assets	51,191	51,763
Amortization of deferred contributions	(622)	(674)
Change in non-cash operating working capital:		
Accounts receivable	96,080	14,658
Prepaid expenses	(26,412)	(1,063)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	168,796	5,557
Accrued income on investments	7,791	(24,062)
Change in deferred contributions relating to General Fund	242,168	5,691
	<u>1,067,949</u>	<u>564,673</u>
Financing:		
Endowment contributions received	2,277	2,304
Decrease in other loans payable	(3,726)	(999)
	<u>(1,449)</u>	<u>1,305</u>
Investing:		
Additions to capital assets	(40,205)	(25,729)
Increase in investments, net	(573,523)	(42,171)
	<u>(613,728)</u>	<u>(67,900)</u>
Increase in cash	452,772	498,078
Cash, beginning of year	1,916,138	1,418,060
Cash, end of year	<u>\$ 2,368,910</u>	<u>\$ 1,916,138</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

# MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended January 31, 2014

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## 1. General:

Mennonite Church Canada (MC Canada) is a Canada-wide Christian denomination within the Anabaptist-Mennonite tradition. Its mission includes the promotion of biblical faithfulness in worship, evangelism, service, peacemaking and stewardship of God's creation.

MC Canada is a body of Mennonite congregations which works in partnership with provincial/regional conferences in the mission and ministry of the church of Jesus Christ. It provides, facilitates and coordinates national and other programs that support the ministry of its congregations and partner area conferences. MC Canada works closely with other national Mennonite conferences, particularly Mennonite Church USA, cooperates with various inter-Mennonite and other Christian agencies, and represents national and international programs and concerns to its constituency.

MC Canada is a corporation without share capital incorporated under the laws of Canada and is registered with Canada Revenue Agency as a charitable organization with registration number 10696-7086-RR0001. MC Canada is exempt from income tax under Section 149 of the *Income Tax Act*.

## 2. Significant accounting policies:

The financial statements have been prepared by management in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and include the following significant accounting policies:

### (a) Fund accounting:

Assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses related to MC Canada's capital assets, capital campaigns, and internally restricted funds for future asset purchases are recorded in the Capital Fund. All other assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses are reported in the General Fund.

# MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2014

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## 2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

### (b) Revenue recognition:

MC Canada follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions, which include donations and government grants.

Externally restricted contributions, other than endowment contributions, are deferred and recognized as revenue of the appropriate fund in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Contributions restricted for the purchase of capital assets are deferred and amortized into revenue at a rate corresponding with the amortization rate for the related capital assets.

MC Canada has established an internal policy to generally recognize revenue on externally restricted bequests at the lesser of the related expense incurred during the year and 10 percent of the particular deferred balance.

Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the General Fund when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Endowment contributions are recorded as a direct increase to the externally restricted fund balance of the General Fund. Investment income earned on endowment contributions is recognized as revenue of the General Fund.

Sales, services and fees are recognized as revenue when earned.

Investment income on unrestricted assets is recognized as revenue when earned. Investment income earned on deferred contributions is recognized as revenue in the same period as the related expenses of the deferred contribution are recognized.

Investment income earned on bequest funds and on the Church Building Fund are recognized directly into revenue of the General Fund.

Government grants relating to program delivery and administration are recognized as revenue of the General Fund in the year in which they apply.

# MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2014

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## 2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

### (c) Capital assets:

Purchased capital assets are recorded in the Capital Fund at cost. Contributed capital assets are recorded in the Capital Fund at fair value at the date of contribution. Amortization is provided on a straight-line basis over the asset's estimated useful life, which for buildings and improvements is 20 years and for vehicles, equipment and furnishings is 5 years. Amortization expense is reported in the Capital Fund.

### (d) Employee future benefits:

MC Canada has a defined contribution plan providing pension and post-employment benefits for its salaried employees. The cost of the defined contribution plan is recognized based on contributions required to be made during each period. During the year ended January 31, 2014, MC Canada made employer contributions for its employees to the plan in the amount of \$101,160 (2013 - \$103,069).

MC Canada is also a member of a health cost sharing plan incorporated in the United States, covering certain employees working overseas. Contributions to the plan are expensed as incurred.

### (e) Foreign currency:

Monetary items denominated in foreign currency are translated to Canadian dollars at exchange rates in effect at the balance sheet date and non-monetary items are translated at rates of exchange in effect when the assets were acquired or obligations incurred. Revenues and expenses are translated at rates in effect at the time of the transactions. Foreign exchange gains and losses are included in income.

### (f) Financial instruments:

Financial instruments are recorded at fair value on initial recognition. Freestanding derivative instruments that are not in a qualifying hedging relationship and equity instruments that are quoted in an active market are subsequently measured at fair value. All other financial instruments are subsequently recorded at cost or amortized cost, unless management has elected to carry the instruments at fair value. MC Canada has not elected to carry any such financial instruments at fair value.

Investments in pooled funds are carried at fair value. The change in the difference between the fair value and the cost of investments at the beginning and end of each year is reflected in investment income in the statement of operations.

**MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA**

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2014

**2. Significant accounting policies (continued):**

Transaction costs incurred on the acquisition of financial instruments measured subsequently at fair value are expensed as incurred. All other financial instruments are adjusted by transaction costs incurred on acquisition and financing costs, which are amortized using the straight-line method.

Financial assets are assessed for impairment on an annual basis at the end of the fiscal year if there are indicators of impairment. If there is an indicator of impairment, MC Canada determines if there is a significant adverse change in the expected amount or timing of future cash flows from the financial asset. If there is a significant adverse change in the expected cash flows, the carrying value of the financial asset is reduced to the highest of the present value of the expected cash flows, the amount that could be realized from selling the financial asset or the amount MC Canada expects to realize by exercising its right to any collateral. If events and circumstances reverse in a future period, an impairment loss will be reversed to the extent of the improvement, not exceeding the initial carrying value.

**(g) Use of estimates:**

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. Significant items subject to such estimates and assumptions include the carrying amount of capital assets. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

**3. Accounts receivable:**

	2014	2013
Donations receivable	\$ 184,227	\$ 272,875
Other	121,686	129,118
	<b>\$ 305,913</b>	<b>\$ 401,993</b>

**MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA**

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2014

**4. Investments:**

	2014	2013
Mennonite Foundation of Canada:		
Annuities	\$ 19,470	\$ 20,570
Church Building Fund Trust	486,257	449,587
Endowments, bequests and other	1,590,998	1,045,899
Canada Life Insurance Company	117,607	132,159
Crosstown Civic Credit Union surplus shares	5,501	5,886
	<u>\$ 2,219,833</u>	<u>\$ 1,654,101</u>

The investments held at Mennonite Foundation of Canada may be withdrawn at any time, with due notice. Investment earnings are paid by Mennonite Foundation of Canada based on its pooled rate, less a fixed percentage for administration fees.

The majority of the investments with Canada Life Insurance Company are held in a money market fund and a guaranteed fund.

**5. Capital assets:**

			2014	2013
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net book value	Net book value
Land	\$ 983	\$ -	\$ 983	\$ 983
Buildings:				
Witness field properties	80,767	80,446	321	1,147
Heritage Centre	694,774	659,356	35,418	42,080
Conference administration	787,191	787,191	-	-
	<u>1,562,732</u>	<u>1,526,993</u>	<u>35,739</u>	<u>43,227</u>
Vehicles, equipment and furnishings	730,408	695,028	35,380	38,878
	<u>\$ 2,294,123</u>	<u>\$ 2,222,021</u>	<u>\$ 72,102</u>	<u>\$ 83,088</u>

MC Canada has a commercial line of credit to a maximum of \$500,000, which is secured by a first mortgage on the property at 600 Shaftesbury, now owned by Canadian Mennonite University (note 10[a]) and a general security agreement. As at January 31, 2014, and January 31, 2013, no amounts are drawn on the facility.

**MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA**

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2014

**6. Accounts payable and accrued liabilities:**

Included in accounts payable and accrued liabilities are government remittances payable of \$505 (2013 - \$35) which includes amounts payable for provincial sales tax.

**7. Deferred contributions:**

## (a) General Fund:

Deferred contributions reported in the General Fund relate to externally restricted operating contributions which have not yet been disbursed for their intended purpose. Investment income if any, relating to these amounts are included as deferred contributions. Investment income is allocated from the General Fund based on internal policy, and in the years ended January 31, 2014 and 2013, no such income was earned based on the policy.

Changes in the deferred contributions balance reported in the General Fund are as follows:

	January 31, 2014	Investment income	Received and not disbursed	Recognized as revenue	January 31, 2013
<b>MC Canada programs:</b>					
Witness Council:					
Witness Bequest Fund	\$ 636,797	\$ -	\$ 194,859	\$ (49,104)	\$ 491,042
Native ministries:					
Emergency Support Fund	4,627	-	-	-	4,627
Jeremiah's Dream	916	-	-	(500)	1,416
Language training	1,604	-	-	(1,600)	3,204
Native education	2,301	-	-	(1,500)	3,801
Mexico - Cuauthemoc	7,203	-	-	-	7,203
Africa Entrepreneurship	20,000	-	20,000	-	-
Church Building Fund	442,191	-	-	-	442,191
	1,115,639	-	214,859	(52,704)	953,484
Formation Council:					
Formation Bequest Fund	52,561	-	-	(5,840)	58,401
Translation	7,586	-	-	-	7,586
Leadership training Fund	9,468	-	-	-	9,468
Russian Mennonite research	4,070	-	-	-	4,070
Anabaptist media	4,574	-	-	(914)	5,488
Pastoral Counselling Fund	2,964	-	-	(888)	3,852
Education Agency	7,897	-	-	-	7,897
	89,120	-	-	(7,642)	96,762
	1,204,759	-	214,859	(60,346)	1,050,246
<b>Partner programs:</b>					
Partner Projects	48,050	-	45,878	(2,952)	5,124
Kherson Partnership	3,606	-	3,606	(6,253)	6,253
North American Vietnamese					
Mennonite	26,653	-	26,653	(8,616)	8,616
Phillippines Partnership	-	-	-	(1,523)	1,523
IM short-term assignments	6,774	-	1,399	(957)	6,332
Eastern Mennonite Missions	25,730	-	24,568	-	1,162
Company of 1000	59,807	-	43,157	(33,945)	50,595
Abram A. Vogt Legacy Fund	16,253	-	140	(3,500)	19,613
	186,873	-	145,401	(57,746)	99,218
	\$ 1,391,632	\$ -	\$ 360,260	\$ (118,092)	\$ 1,149,464

**MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA**

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2014

**7. Deferred contributions (continued):**

(b) Capital Fund:

Changes in the deferred contributions balance reported in the Capital Fund are as follows:

	2014	2013
Beginning balance	\$ 4,361	\$ 5,035
Less amount recognized as revenue in the year	(622)	(674)
<b>Ending balance</b>	<b>\$ 3,739</b>	<b>\$ 4,361</b>

**8. External restrictions on General Fund balances:**

External restrictions on General Fund balances are as follows:

	2014	2013
<b>General Board Endowments:</b>		
Conference administration building	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
MC Canada general endowment	8,445	8,445
	<b>108,445</b>	<b>108,445</b>
<b>Witness Council Endowments:</b>		
<b>Native Ministries:</b>		
Education endowment	16,753	16,753
General	2,000	2,000
Summer service	1,945	1,945
	<b>20,698</b>	<b>20,698</b>
<b>Formation Council Endowment:</b>		
Company of 1000	145,166	142,889
History archives endowment	25,112	25,112
	<b>170,278</b>	<b>168,001</b>
	<b>\$ 299,421</b>	<b>\$ 297,144</b>

Endowment funds are contributions designated by donors to remain in perpetuity. The investment income earned by these funds is either restricted by the donor for specific use, or for the general use of the Entity. Investment income earned on the Endowment funds is recognized as revenue of the General Fund. A portion of the investment income is redirected to rebuild the principal balance where an investment loss had occurred in the previous year.

**MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA**

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2014

**9. Internally restricted fund balances:**

(a) General Fund:

	2014	2013
Witness Council:		
Witness start-up	\$ 18,816	\$ 18,816
Witness future projects	8,220	8,220
Missional resources	3,878	3,878
International Ministries	562,148	529,678
Native Ministries	105,927	113,927
Witness medical	15,371	15,371
Asia Worker Housing	65,925	–
	<u>780,285</u>	<u>689,890</u>
Formation Council:		
Youth Assembly	20,760	34,132
Resource Creation	4,000	4,000
	<u>24,760</u>	<u>38,132</u>
Church Engagement Council:		
Church Engagement miscellaneous reserve	13,368	13,368
Operations:		
Major repair reserve	22,442	22,442
General Board:		
General bequests received to be used for program expenditures over a 10 year period	150,502	119,457
General	719,685	607,088
New projects	216,462	200,813
MCEC first fruits	289,243	–
Mennonite World Conference	8,000	6,000
	<u>1,383,892</u>	<u>933,358</u>
Partner programs:		
Learning Tour	20,005	17,865
MVSA Partnership reserve	36,820	37,105
Der Bote	13,354	14,354
Gallery	184,543	200,720
Archives	46,532	37,960
Company of 1000	33,663	29,134
Mennonite Women Canada	80,341	80,341
	<u>415,258</u>	<u>417,479</u>
	<u>\$ 2,640,005</u>	<u>\$ 2,114,669</u>

These internally restricted amounts are not available for any other purpose without the approval of the respective Council or General Board.

**MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA**

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2014

**9. Internally restricted fund balances (continued):**

During the year, the General Board authorized the following transfers:

- (i) \$63,279 (2013 - \$41,135) from the General Fund's internally restricted funds to the General Fund's unrestricted funds to cover program expenses for the year.
- (ii) \$588,615 (2013 - \$572,025) to the General Fund's internally restricted funds from the General Fund's unrestricted funds to cover future program expenses.
- (iii) \$48,150 (2013 - \$26,962) to the Capital Fund's internally restricted funds and \$6,040 (2013 - \$6,040) to the invested in capital assets from the General Fund's unrestricted funds for current and future capital acquisitions.
- (iv) \$40,205 (January 31, 2013 - \$25,729) from the Capital Fund's internally restricted funds to cover current year capital asset acquisitions.

**(b) Capital Fund:**

	2014	2013
General capital	\$ 139,522	\$ 131,577

These internally restricted amounts are not available for any other purpose without the approval of the General Board.

**10. Related party transactions:**

- (a) The Canadian Mennonite Bible College (CMBC), which was previously owned and operated by MC Canada, entered into a formal arrangement in prior years with two other Mennonite Colleges to form the Canadian Mennonite University (CMU). CMU was formed in order to increase the effectiveness, both in serving the Mennonite constituency and in witnessing to the larger society, by providing university level training consistent with a Christian perspective rooted in the Anabaptist-Mennonite tradition. CMU was incorporated in 1998 as a corporation without share capital by *The Mennonite College Federation and Consequential Amendments Act* of Manitoba. The members of the corporation are CMBC, Concord College and Menno Simons College.

MC Canada leases its offices and the Heritage Centre from CMU under a 99 year capital lease. MC Canada does not pay rent on this lease but is responsible for all utility and maintenance costs associated with these properties.

# MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2014

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## 10. Related party transactions (continued):

During the year, MC Canada committed to fund \$240,000 in capital expenditures to be carried out as part of CMU's Library and Bridge project. The commitment is expected to be paid during fiscal 2015 from cash on hand.

### (b) Menno Media:

Menno Media, previously known as Mennonite Publishing Network, is an organization incorporated in the state of Pennsylvania as a not-for-profit corporation. Its purpose is to serve the publishing ministry needs of MC Canada and Mennonite Church USA. MC Canada is able to appoint 3 of a maximum of 8 members on Menno Media's board of directors. During the year, MC Canada contributed \$29,733 to Menno Media (2013 - \$26,147).

(c) MC Canada sponsors a defined contribution pension plan for its employees and its member churches and related organizations. The plan is registered under the *Pension Benefits Act* of Manitoba, registration number 0228650. The pension plan is administered by Group Retirement Services (GRS). During fiscal year 2014, MC Canada was paid \$49,752 (2013 - \$64,136) by GRS for services provided by MC Canada in relation to administering the plan.

## 11. Financial risks and concentration of credit risk:

### (a) Currency risk:

MC Canada is exposed to financial risks as a result of exchange rate fluctuations and the volatility of these rates. In the normal course of business, MC incurs international expenditures denominated in various foreign currencies. MC Canada does not currently enter into forward contracts to mitigate this risk. There has been no change to the risk exposure from 2013.

### (b) Liquidity risk:

Liquidity risk is the risk that MC Canada will be unable to fulfill its obligations on a timely basis or at a reasonable cost. MC Canada manages its liquidity risk by monitoring its operating requirements. MC Canada prepares budget and cash forecasts to ensure it has sufficient funds to fulfill its obligations. There has been no change to the risk exposure from 2013.

**MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA**

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2014

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**11. Financial risks and concentration of credit risk (continued):**

## (c) Credit risk:

Credit risk refers to the risk that a counterparty may default on its contractual obligations resulting in a financial loss. MC Canada is exposed to credit risk with respect to the accounts receivable. MC Canada assesses, on a continuous basis, accounts receivable and provides for any amounts that are not collectible in the allowance for doubtful accounts. There has been no change to the risk exposure from 2013.

## (d) Interest rate risk:

MC Canada is exposed to interest rate risk on its fixed interest rate investments that are held in pooled funds (note 4).

**12. Bi-national asset distribution:**

As part of the dissolution of the General Conference Mennonite Church and the Mennonite Church in 2002, assets and liabilities of these entities were distributed to their successor organizations, MC Canada and Mennonite Church USA. During the year ended January 31, 2014, Mennonite Mission Network (MMN), the mission agency of Mennonite Church USA informed MC Canada that it had disposed of properties which had been jointly funded by both organizations, with net realized proceeds distributed to MC Canada of \$98,395 (2013 - \$507,362). The funds have been transferred to internally restricted funds during the year ended January 31, 2014.

**MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA**

Expenses for Christian Witness Council Program

Year ended January 31, 2014, with comparative figures for 2013

	2014	2013
Executive office	\$ 124,887	\$ 124,948
National ministries administration	272	669
Indigenous relations	125,750	124,942
International ministries	1,347,934	1,241,619
	<b>\$ 1,598,843</b>	<b>\$ 1,492,178</b>

**MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA**

Expenses for Christian Formation Council Program

Year ended January 31, 2014, with comparative figures for 2013

	2014	2013
Executive office	\$ 206,044	\$ 202,424
Resource Centre	138,619	146,591
Ministerial and congregational leadership	90,614	92,106
Youth ministry	302	–
Youth assembly	130,877	7,645
Education and nurture ministries	–	57
Canadian Mennonite University grants	175,000	200,000
	<b>\$ 741,456</b>	<b>\$ 648,823</b>

**MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA**

Expenses for Church Engagement Council Program

Year ended January 31, 2014, with comparative figures for 2013

	2014	2013
Executive office	\$ 109,990	\$ 106,633
Communications	227,099	234,965
Development	164,025	174,819
Canadian Mennonite	119,776	145,507
	<b>\$ 620,890</b>	<b>\$ 661,924</b>

**MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA**

## Expenses for General Board

Year ended January 31, 2014, with comparative figures for 2013

	2014	2013
Administration	\$ 254,423	\$ 269,939
Finance	245,513	235,186
Foreign exchange loss (gain)	(29,579)	1,531
Operations	223,649	225,584
Assembly	1,600	205,838
Mennonite World Conference grants	28,500	38,000
	<b>\$ 724,106</b>	<b>\$ 976,078</b>

**MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA**

## Expenses for Partner Programs

Year ended January 31, 2014, with comparative figures for 2013

	2014	2013
Partner Projects/New Initiatives	\$ 53,471	\$ 5,250
Christian Peacemaker Teams	131,031	131,397
Company of 1000	29,945	35,778
North American Vietnamese Mennonite Fellowship	16,823	25,659
Philippine Partnership	55,047	76,964
Mennonite Voluntary Service Adventure	4,734	2,362
Kherson	8,547	8,520
Learning tours	22,524	-
Mennonite Women Canada	21,763	23,402
Mennonite Heritage Centre archives	65,977	68,304
Mennonite Heritage Centre gallery	122,239	113,870
IM short-term assignments	51,913	71,983
	<b>\$ 584,014</b>	<b>\$ 563,489</b>

**MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA**

## Contributions to Related Organizations

Year ended January 31, 2014, with comparative figures for 2013

	2014	2013
Mennonite Mission Network	\$ 81,797	\$ 72,737
Mennonite Church USA	15,941	11,365
Associated Mennonite Bible Seminary	75,472	76,190
Canadian Mennonite University	89,809	88,164
Menno Media	29,733	26,147
Meseretes Kristos College	413,556	235,531
Eastern Mennonite Missions	19,912	-
Mennonite Church Eastern Canada	23,058	37,355
	<b>\$ 749,278</b>	<b>\$ 547,489</b>

	Thursday July 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Friday July 4 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday July 5 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday July 6 <sup>th</sup>
7:30 - 8:15		Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
8:30 - 8:45		Gathering	Gathering	Gathering
8:45 - 9:30		Worship	Worship	
9:30 - 10:15		Plenary	Plenary	Worship (9:30-11:30 am)
10:15 - 10:45		Break	Break	
10:45 - 11:50		Future Directions Task Force	Being a Faithful Church (BFC)	
11:50 - 12:00	Minister Conference (8:30 - 4:00)	Announcements	Announcements	Delegates / Participants Head home
12:00 - 1:30		Lunch / CMU Lunch / Witness Worker lunch	Lunch / AMBS Lunch / Canadian Mennonite Lunch	Lodging Check - out no later than 1 pm SAFE TRAVEL HOME, EVERYONE!
1:30 - 2:45		Being a Faithful Church (BFC)	Future Directions Task Force	
2:45 - 3:00		Transition	Resolutions and Nomination vote	
3:00 - 3:15		Seminar	Transition	
3:15 - 3:30			Seminars	
3:30 - 4:00	Registration Begins (3:30 - 5:15)	Break	Seminars	
4:00 - 4:30		Seminar		
4:30 - 4:45			Transition	
4:45 - 5:15				
5:15 - 6:30	Gathering	Supper / Mennonite Men Event	Transition	
6:30 - 6:45	Opening & Worship	Transition	Mennonite Church Manitoba Event at Camp Assiniboia Transportation provided	
6:45 - 9:00	Business session	Family & Friends Gathering (6:30 start)  Mennonite Women Canada Event (7:30 start)  YA event (8:00 start)		

## OUR VISION

God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world.

## STATEMENT OF IDENTITY AND PURPOSE

God calls, equips and sends the church to engage the world with the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We are a community of disciples of Jesus, a part of the Body of Christ, covenanted together as congregations, area churches, and a national church body.

Gratefully responding to God's initiatives and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves and our resources to calling, equipping and sending the church to engage the world with the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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## OUR PRIORITIES:

To engage the world with the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ, we will:

**Form** a people of God  
**Become** a global church  
**Grow** leaders for the church

### CORE PROCESSES FOR EACH PRIORITY

#### **Form a People of God by:**

- Discerning, calling forth, and equipping the gifts of the Spirit that are among and within us;
- Discerning the "signs of the times," the terrain in which we minister and need to engage;
- Nurturing and strengthening the "body-life" of our people-hood;
- "Extending our table;" being intentional about inviting people into relationship with Jesus Christ, and nurturing our capacity for hospitality within the life of our community

#### **Become a global church by:**

- Strengthening our capacity to engage with and learn from the diversity that God nurtures among us and beyond us;
- Committing to reconciling ministry "from across the street to around the world;"
- Nurturing a growing accountability to the global communion of faith, especially to the community of Anabaptists;
- Embracing and fostering our Mennonite identity as a perspective of Christian faith within all cultures and ethnic identities.

#### **Grow leaders for the church by:**

- Strengthening the family and the home as a seed-bed for emerging church leadership;
- Becoming more intentional about broadly based leadership training;
- Focusing resources on educating pastors to be leaders and some leaders to become pastors;
- Encouraging new models and styles of leadership for a missional church.