

600 Shaftesbury Blvd Winnipeg MB R3P 0M4 Toll free 1-866-888-6785 P: 204-888-6781 F: 204-831-5675 E: office@mennonitechurch.ca www.mennonitechurch.ca

Inspired by the Word: Gathering

The Bible inspires us to connect with other believers. In fact, the Hebrew and The bible inspires us to connect with other believers. In fact, the Hebrew and "assembly." In Greek words that are most often translated for "church" also mean "assembly." In this second of five articles we look through the over of these who attend a second of five articles we look through the over of these who are the second of five articles we look through the over of these who are the second of the articles. this second of five articles, we look through the eyes of those who attend Assembly. The this second of five articles, we look through the eyes of those who attend Assembly. Part II of V we now unough the eyes of unose wind alle blies at the importance of gathering together to engage in our calling.

Each year, delegates from Mennonite Church Canada congregations gather for Each year, delegates from with morning characters, and break bread together.

Assembly to worship, pray, learn, discuss and discern, and break breador.

Long-time Accomply-goors have discovered that participation in the breador. Assertiuly to worship, pray, learn, discuss and discern, and preak pread together the broader Long-time Assembly-goers have discovered that participation in the broader of boing the chiral is an important part of boing the chiral to the chi

Helen Kruger has attended at least 30 assemblies since 1961, primarily as a delchurch is an important part of being the church. Helen Kruger has altended at least 30 assembles since 1901, primarily as a defended Kruger has altended at least 30 assembles since 1901, primarily as a defended Kruger has altended at least 30 assembles since 1901, primarily as a defended Region Region of the Polymer has altended at least 30 assembles since 1901, primarily as a defended Region Region Region of the Polymer has a defended at least 30 assembles since 1901, primarily as a defended Region R egate. Sine and her nusband william, who are currently interim pastors at would be also and her nusband william, who are currently interim pastors at would be applied to the state of the noyal wenturile Unurch in Saskarout, Sask., remember one couple who were so energized by their first Assembly experience that they gained confidence to so energized by their holists "It gave them the courses to be leaders" Kruser so energized by their holists "It gave them the courses to be leaders" Kruser so energized by their heir beliefs. "It gave them the courage to be leaders," Kruger speak out about their beliefs.

For Kruger, coming together in dialogue and decision-making strengthens rui kiuyer, vuinning vuyernen in ulavuyue anu uevisiun-making sirenginens our effectiveness as a church. It enables us to witness more effectively to our enectiveness as a criuron. It enables us to witness more effectively to a world that needs healing and direction. "For me, Assembly is a time of a wond that needs nealing and unection. For the Assembly is a time of inspiration and nurture. It is a time to renew vision, gain incentive and feel inspiration and nurture. It is a time to renew vision. fed by the combined strength of fellow believers."

Marie Rehsler can't count the number of assemblies she has attended over her lifetime. A member of Yarrow United Mennonite Church in Over their mentine. A member of randw office when we morning the event, Chilliwack, B.C., Rehsler has always taken an active role in the event, Whether in her previous position as President of B.C. Women in Mission in her previous position as President of B.C. Women in Mission in her previous position as President of B.C. Women in Mission in her previous position as President of B.C. Women in Mission in her previous position as President of B.C. Women in Mission in her previous position as President of B.C. Women in Mission in her previous position as President of B.C. Women in Mission in her previous position as President of B.C. Women in Mission in her previous position as President of B.C. Women in Mission in her previous position as President of B.C. Women in Mission in her previous position as President of B.C. Women in Mission in her previous position as President of B.C. Women in Mission in her previous position as President of B.C. Women in Mission in her previous position as President of B.C. Women in Mission in her previous position as President of B.C. Women in Mission in her previous position as President of B.C. Women in Mission in her previous position as President of B.C. Women in Mission in her previous position as President of B.C. Women in Mission in her previous position in h Witerier in the previous position as resource or p.o. wollen in wission in the late 1990s, or as a volunteer. In Abbotsford in 2007, she was in charge of parking, ushering and signage.

"It's important to have the exchange of ideas and also to help each other. The other thing is the social aspect, that you get to know the outer. The other unity is the social aspect, may you get to know the people who are in charge and you feel free to contact them... you are people who are in charge and you feel free to contact them..." Peuple with are in criarye and you need need to communities."

aware of what is happening in our churches and communities. With an infant and two young children in tow, Monica Bock of First Mennonite Church

in Winnipeg, Man. attended her first Assembly in 2008. "Curiosity drove me there," she says. "My mom had often gone growing up, and she loved them."

Bock took her two older children, ages 3 and 5, to the coinciding

Bock look her two older children, ages 3 and 3, to the controlling Children's Assembly. "They would come home every day with these little faith price of a care "They etill talk about it" Unite faith nuggets," she says. "They still talk about it."

She also appreciated the passionate open-mike discussions about Sine also appreciated the passionate open-trilke discussions about topics that were important to her — "greening" and non-violent peace-topics that were important to her — "greening" and hour house topics that were important to her — "greening" and hour house topics that were important to her and house topics that he had not her and house topics that he had not her and house topics that he had not her and her and house topics that he had not her and TOPICS THAT Were Important to Her—"greening and Hon-violent peace-making. "There was a buzz and excitement about being together with making. "There was a buzz and excitement about being together with making."

"How do we get a sense of being the church in Canada if we don't like-minded people."

"How do we get a sense of being the church in Canada II we don't see each other?" asks Albert Durksen. As the leading Pastor of North see each other?" asks Albert Durksen. Man Durkson has been an exclusion to the character of t see each other? asks Albert Durksen. As the leading pastor of North Kildonan Mennonite Church in Winnipeg, Man., Durksen has been an Kildonan Mennonite Church in 2000 "The most meaningful times for me are when we are working at things avid assembly attendee since 1982.

The most meaningful times for me are when we are working at things through the work we do," Durksen reflects. "What is our identity? How through the work we do," Durksen reflects." Authorists discussions unough the work we up, purksen reneuts, writer is our identity? He are we the church in the most faithful way?" Although discussions are we the church in the most faithful way? Although discussions about tough issues can be tense at times, he is convinced that "[that's] where the roots a difference" where we really make a difference."