

Global Mission Fellowship

Report to Mennonite Church Canada

Annual Assembly, 2009

By Janet Plenert, Chair of GMF

I greet you on behalf of your brothers and sisters in 40 countries around the world. I greet you wearing a different hat than I usually wear here at an MC Canada Assembly. For the moment, I am wearing my Global Mission Fellowship hat, and as chair of this global networking body, with 70 churches and mission agencies in 40 countries around the world, I am happy to report to you.

When Mennonite Church Canada decided that ‘becoming a global church’ would be one of its priorities, we surely understood that we would need to think beyond ourselves, move beyond our comfort zone, and get ever more in touch with what God is doing in our global church family. And, as a wealthy church from the global west, we would need to be prepared to share of our gifts in different ways, for the good of the global body.

The Global Mission Fellowship is one endeavour that Mennonite Church Canada has chosen to get involved in as part of this priority. The Global Mission Fellowship was birthed in 2003 in Zimbabwe. It is primarily a networking space for churches and mission agencies from all over the world to come together for vision sharing, collaboration, cooperation and learning from one another. The GMF planning committee plans a major global gathering every three years – and the next one is July 11-14 immediately prior to the MWC Assembly.

God is at work, calling churches all over the world to participate in God’s reconciling mission. Mission is happening from everywhere to everywhere: from Brazil to Mozambique, from Congo to South Africa, from Honduras to China, from Ethiopia to Canada, from Korea to East Timor. By gathering Anabaptist mission leaders from all over the world, we reposition ourselves as one among many churches doing mission, rather than the hub through which other countries direct their efforts and navigate their relationships.

On behalf of the Global Mission Fellowship, I thank MC Canada for its considerable financial support which helps enable GMF to bring leaders

from the global south to these gatherings, as well as allowing me to accept the role of chair of the GMF since 2006.

We look forward in Paraguay to merging the GMF into the brand new Mission Commission of MWC, thus bringing this networking body firmly into the heart of our global church.

Thank you to Mennonite Church Canada for your membership in GMF, for the financial support, for the staff who have worked with GMF, and for believing that we need to support mission leaders from other countries to network directly with each other. This is a significant gift to the functioning of the church around the world.