

## **Opening Prayers for Assembly 2009**

By Karen Martens Zimmerly

Holy and Creating God,  
You know every thread in the fabric of our lives  
For in your imaginative Being  
You knit each one of us in the womb,  
Never using the same pattern twice.

You continue to call and fashion us to be your people.  
Each local church community unique,  
Yet part of one body.  
You call us to fashion ourselves after your son, Jesus Christ.  
Who resides within us yet walks before us.  
The One, who in the mystery of death and the tomb  
Burst forth and proclaims that resurrection is the enduring fabric  
In all of life's mysteries and challenges!

We invite your Holy Spirit to weave among us these days;  
Creating something far beyond our imaginations!  
AMEN.

### **Introduction of Guest:**

We are gathered in this place as the people of Mennonite Church Canada.  
We also recognize that the land on which we are meeting is land that Aboriginal people  
lived on long before we arrived.  
I am honoured to introduce to you Harry Lafond, the Executive Director of the Office  
of the Treaty Commissioner in Saskatchewan.  
He will bring a word of welcome and blessing and then our moderator, Andrew  
Reesor-McDowell will respond.

### **Prayer of anticipation for the delegate sessions:**

Gracious God,  
We turn from the spiritual work of worship  
To the spiritual work of being your people through discernment.  
We want to meet you Lord in the faces of new friends and old.  
We want to experience your wisdom and guidance in our sessions.  
We want to be encouraged for the journey  
And see more clearly where you are at work through our various ministries.  
Help us to be wise stewards of all that you have entrusted to us.  
May our deliberations give us vision and direction for joining your work in the world. AMEN