

REPORT BOOK

*it's* **epic**  
*remembering*  
**God's future**

 Mennonite Church Canada

*assembly 2011*



*it's* **epic**  
*remembering*  
*God's future*

The theme for Adult Assembly 2011  
"it's epic: remembering God's future"

is taken from Revelation 21 & 22. In the beginning God walked with us in a garden of abundance and beauty that met all our needs (Gen 1:28-30). Though we broke our covenant with God, Jesus came as "God with us" so that we could remember our past relationship and count on God's promise to make a home among mortals again in the future (Rev. 21-22). God with us; remembering God's future. Now that's epic!

The primary purpose of the Adult Assembly is  
"To call Assembly participants to make a commitment or strengthen their commitment to Jesus Christ and His church."



**Mennonite Church Canada**

ASSEMBLY 2011 • Waterloo, Ontario

July 4-July 8 • Revelation 21:1-4, 22-26 and 22:1-5

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## HOW TO USE THIS REPORT BOOK

This book contains the reporting materials reflecting our work of the past year.

A basic schedule for the proceedings and an agenda can be found on the last page. 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 denomination.

## 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

ACOM.....Area Church Only Membership  
AMBS .....Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary  
AMIGOS.....Mennonite World Conference Youth Committee  
CAMS .....Canadian Association of Mennonite Schools  
CCC.....Canadian Council of Churches  
CE .....Church Engagement  
CFC .....Christian Formation Council  
CMU.....Canadian Mennonite University  
COF .....Confession of Faith  
CPT.....Christian Peacemaker Teams  
CMM .....Conference of Mennonites in Mexico  
CWC.....Christian Witness Council  
EFC.....Evangelical Fellowship of Canada  
FLC.....Faith and Life Committee  
FPAC.....Financial Policy and Audit Committee  
FYE.....Fiscal Year End  
GB .....General Board  
GMF .....Global Mennonite Fellowship  
IMPACT.....International Mennonite Pastors Coming Together

JEC .....Joint Executive Council  
KPMG .....Auditors for Mennonite Church Canada  
M/S/C/ .....Moved/Seconded/Carried  
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  
MFC.....Mennonite Foundation of Canada  
MSAM .....Moderators, Secretaries & Area Church Ministers  
MPN .....Mennonite Publishing Network  
MWC.....Mennonite World Conference  
MWC.....Mennonite Women Canada  
SSC.....Support Services Council

## Words from the General Secretary

### Continuing to Change

What it means to be Church is changing. Of course this is true for every period of Church history. Context is always changing. Challenges are always emerging. But the Church has always had the confidence of knowing the presence of the Risen Christ. This presence provides us with confidence, comfort and joy. The presence of God is as sure as the constancy of change.

This is the confident joy that guides our work as Mennonite Church Canada. This Report Book will provide you with evidence of your staff working hard to provide leadership and resources as a National Church. We continue to strive to put structure to our shared priorities of Forming a People of God, Becoming a Global Church, and Growing Leaders for the Church.

There has been a lot of change in Mennonite Church Canada, too. As the new General Secretary I am very aware that I represent a significant portion of this dynamic. Change is inevitable with any transition to new leadership. The decision to accept my need to remain living in Ontario is an added dimension to the normal challenges of leadership transition. I have been honoured by the goodwill of staff during this time of living into a new reality. I have also been humbled and encouraged by the many people who have assured me of their regular prayers on our behalf. I am very grateful for the many individuals and congregations who continue to support Mennonite Church Canada with their prayers and financial gifts.

The budgeting process for FYE 2012-2013 has also added a significant challenge to this period of new leadership. Repositioning ourselves as a smaller structure has been painful. Working on behalf of Mennonite Church Canada is a calling and a passion for individuals. Letting go of this passion and these gifts from an employment relationship is a loss. The determination to discontinue Multi-cultural Ministries was not an easy decision. Transitioning to a contract position for Youth Ministries resourcing was not an easy conclusion either. In addition there has been a significant decrease and change in Executive staffing.

In the last eleven years, we have seen optimistic growth – from 2001-2003 perhaps too optimistic – then shrinkage, then measured and carefully considered strengthening, and now some carefully considered reduction. In the last 11 years, we have suffered some ministry losses and enjoyed some ministry gains. In a congregation, income and expenditures can fluctuate, and it can be difficult to plan only one year in advance at a time. But like congregations, the national church has faith that next year will again bring joy, challenge, and surprising resources.

Although financial resources seem strained right now, we will continue to do as much as we can with what we have. However, this may, for now, have to be less than were able to do in the past. Even within a smaller structure, Mennonite Church Canada

as a National Church, 5 Area Churches and 225 plus congregations, remains committed to our shared priorities.

Despite some early challenges in my role, I remain confident of God's passion for the Church. I continue to be confident that together, across Canada, we have everything we need to be all that God envisions us to be. We do not lack the gifts, the passion, and the resources required to fulfill the task that God has given us as Mennonite Church Canada. In humility we must offer to the broader Church all that we are, and in turn joyfully accept that which we need.

We have much work to do together. The Being A Faithful Church process is helping us recover the confident joy of discerning the will and activity of God in changing times. This will remain an ongoing task for the people of God because our context is always changing. But with the assurance of God's Spirit we can continue to embrace this important task of the Church.

As Mennonite Church Canada we will continue to be your shared voice in important Canadian and global issues. On behalf of our congregations and 5 Area Churches we will continue to advocate on your behalf for issues such as social justice, creation care, non-violent peace building, refugee advocacy, Aboriginal people's concerns, and Canadian and global poverty. To bring the testimony of God's people to these discussions is one of our key responsibilities as a National Church.

As your gathered voice, the staff and leadership of Mennonite Church Canada are honoured, and take seriously, our responsibility to bring our Anabaptist values to the Canadian Council of Churches (CCC) and the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada. Through our participation at these levels, we have vast potential to influence church and society in unprecedented ways.

Representing the shared voice of Mennonite Church Canada is a responsibility and task beyond the capacity of any one congregation or Area Church. Just as congregations are the voice in local communities, and Area Churches are the voice in regional concerns, Mennonite Church Canada must be the voice in national and global concerns. We carry this responsibility with



Willard Metzger

## Words from the General Secretary cont.

humility, and are thankful for the strength of our voice across the country as well as in ecumenical circles.

Let me thank you again for your support and encouragement. I welcome your comments and feedback and invite you to prayerfully consider increasing your financial support to your congregation, your Area Church and to Mennonite Church Canada.

In this time of shifting global powers, changing Canadian neighbourhoods, and redefining church communities, the situation is still the same. We need God. We need each other. With this constant resource, Mennonite Church Canada can remain confident and continue to be filled with hope.

In Christ,  
Willard Metzger  
General Secretary  
Mennonite Church Canada

When the news of reductions at Mennonite Church Canada appeared in the *Canadian Mennonite* this past April, one of our staff members received an encouraging letter, accompanied by an unexpectedly generous donation:

“The work of the local church, it seems to me, benefits greatly from being part of Mennonite Church Canada. I am enclosing a donation, and hope and pray there will be a thousand others who can help replenish the financial resources.” (excerpted)

Such heartfelt responses, with or without gifts, are tremendously humbling and encouraging for us to receive in the office. On behalf of each and every staff member and volunteer board, council, and committee members, thank you to all who have already responded, and to those who will yet respond.

- Willard



## Message from the Chief Operating Officer

The position of Chief Operating Officer (COO) was introduced at Assembly 2010. Currently, as COO, I am in charge of Assembly logistics and continue to oversee the following activities: Human Resources (HR), Information Technology (IT), Reception, Property Management, and data collection – as well as being the staff liaison on the Mennonite Church Canada Nominating Committee. I also work closely with Willard Metzger, the General Secretary, representing him in the office during the days he is not there.

All of this will change again after Assembly 2011 as a result of the budget reductions being implemented this year. HR, IT and Property Management will come under the oversight of Randy Wiebe, our Chief Financial Officer (CFO). Reception will come under the oversight of Kirsten Schroeder, our Director of Human Resources, and Assembly logistics will fall to either the Executive Secretary of Formation or the Executive Secretary of Church Engagement (or it will be divided between the two). Representing Willard in the office as leader of the Executive Staff team will fall under the new role of the Executive Secretary of Church Engagement/Chief Administrative Officer. That new role will also involve overseeing and providing leadership to Church Engagement, which will include the strategic and core activities of Communications, Resource Development, and Missional Formation.

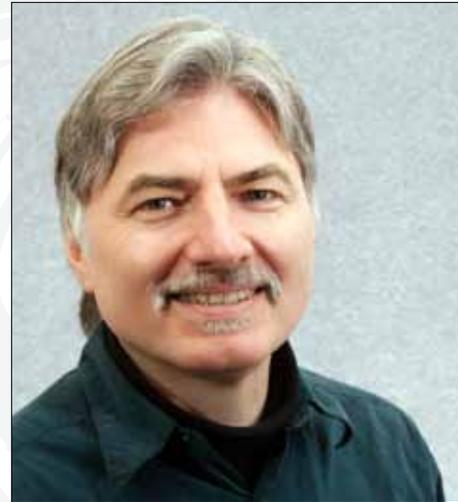
It has been a privilege for me to occupy the role of COO for this transitional year. While much of my time this past year was taken up with Executive Staff discussions focusing on leadership transitions and budget reductions, this report will focus on the other parts of my role as COO.

Overseeing Assembly logistics is the biggest part of my present work at Mennonite Church Canada. Planning and facilitating annual assemblies involves a tremendous effort from the staff as a whole, especially in Communications, Formation and Operations. With the reduction in staff as a result of the budget cuts, we will no longer have the staff time to plan **annual** assemblies and are therefore recommending moving to **biennial** assemblies. This loss of annual assemblies is not something any of us want to see, but the financial realities force us to move in this direction.

In the meantime, we have been working hard to prepare for Assembly 2011. With our new event-planning software (EventPro), we hope that online registration and the timely generation of reports will make life easier for all involved, including our local hosting committee in Waterloo. Local leadership provided by John Cornies, Maurice Martin, and the subcommittee chairs have done a marvellous job preparing Waterloo for your arrival. Under the supervision of staff person Elsie Rempel, a great selection of seminars for Assembly 2011 has also been prepared for you.

Kirsten Schroeder, our HR director, has been kept busy with numerous staff transitions, new International Ministries worker vacancies to fill, new job descriptions to create, pastors' salary

scales to update, working with the Pension Advisory Committee and, of course, playing a critical role in processing the staff changes which were part of the budget reductions. At the same time, Kirsten worked with International Ministries staff to develop a new IM Policy Manual and has updated and introduced a number of required policies for Mennonite Church Canada in general.



Vic Thiessen

Computers play a bigger role in the work of Mennonite Church Canada every year and it is critical to maintain upgraded and properly-working computers and servers. We are fortunate to have an excellent and affordable IT consultant in Chris Don (Just Ask Consulting) to help with this. We have also moved to the highest-speed internet connection so that dispersed and traveling staff can access our office network more efficiently.

During the next year, we will be working closely with Area Churches to collect vital data from each of our congregations, data which will help us monitor changing demographics in churches. This is important at all levels of the church, from the congregation to the national church, to aid in worship planning, Christian education needs, the formation of small groups, children's needs, working with young adults and seniors, pastoral leadership development, being a missional church, budget forecasting, and preparing for the future. To facilitate optimum use of this data collection, the plan is to provide an annual report of the results.

Finally, a brief word on the Nominating Committee, which has a challenging mandate: working throughout the year to find suitable candidates for vacant Council and Board positions and to invite Council and Board members to renew their terms. This group of volunteers works very hard doing what can be challenging work. If you get a call from one of them, I would encourage you consider becoming part of our national church leadership.

The past year has been a year of transitions and difficult decision-making for Mennonite Church Canada. This is never easy but often necessary. I firmly believe that Mennonite Church Canada has a vital role to play in the future of Christianity in Canada and I pray that with God's help, together we will find the best way to move us into that future.

Vic Thiessen  
April, 2011

## Message from the Denominational Minister



Karen Martens Zimmerly

congregations in these communities set us on the path toward God's kind of city?

For the last one thousand years, the church has had a mixed record of listening to God's Spirit and responding in faithful witness on the streets of history. Yet the church still exists! The Mennonite church of the twentieth century has given us a legacy that includes schools, camps, senior homes, numerous related service agencies and foundations, a publishing network, and regional, national, and international ministries. Over the course of time, these parts of the body of Christ developed and grew, some came to an end and others have changed, but each was a response that grew out of a communal grappling with the question, *How is God calling us to respond?*

Now as our contemporary society lives with a post modern and post Christendom mindset, the church with its structures of the last century is increasingly at the edge of society and at the periphery of many individual lives where "change" is the normative rhythm. In the middle of all of this change we do well to pause and consider the words that John wrote to each of the seven churches that are addressed in the book of Revelation: *Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. (Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29; and 3:6, 13, 22)*

This summer at the Assembly in Waterloo, we will consider God's epic vision of the New Jerusalem in the closing words of Revelation, a transformed city where there is no need of protective gates and where God's presence and light is so evident on the streets that there is no need for separated places of worship or other sources of light. While there may be a rich mosaic of enterprise, creativity, and diversity in the communities in which we live, we know that poverty, violence and loneliness are also realities. So how does the presence of our 225 Mennonite Church Canada

What are some of the practices that will give us ears to hear and eyes to see what God wants to do in our communities so that God's presence is experienced on the streets?

- We will grow in our love for Christ and our passion for detecting the Spirit's presence and activity in our imperfect church and wider world. How will this happen? Not only in our worship together, but in our committee work and business meetings, whether in the local congregation, or in the area church or the national church, we will take time to *listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches* through some unlikely "business practices:"
  - taking time to reflect on the question 'where has God been at work in our midst?'
  - selecting a scripture passage to guide us for a season of decision making
  - and pausing during the decision making process for silence and prayer.
- We will value the diversity of gifts that God has given our church. Whether in areas such as the arts, the sciences, the field of athletics or in traditional areas of ministry, we will grow in our ability to realize that these are exactly the diversity of gifts that need to be nurtured by God's epic vision in order to strengthen the church's ability to join God's presence and activity on the streets of our world.
- We will be courageous enough to go out into our neighbourhoods and area church to befriend our multi-cultural neighbours and congregations, receiving their hospitality and the gifts they bring to our communities.
- We will encourage and support our pastors and church leaders to grow in their ability to help our congregations live with diversity and conflict in healthy ways so that we strengthen our ability to be God's ambassadors of reconciliation in our communities.
- We will follow the way of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, as the path that will lead us to the New Jerusalem. Our commitment to Jesus Christ will become more evident as our spiritual walk with the living God is experienced in peace-filled living in our homes, churches, neighbourhoods and communities of our world.

Karen Martens Zimmerly  
Denominational Minister  
Mennonite Church Canada

## Faith and Life Committee (FLC)

The task of the Faith and Life Committee (FLC) is to assist Mennonite Church Canada in discerning the will of God in matters of theology, ethics, polity, and practice. The guiding question for the work of the Committee is this: What does it mean to be a faithful Mennonite Church in our Canadian context?

In 2010, the FLC continued its practice of meeting several times in person and supplementing those meetings with email correspondence and the occasional telephone conversations. Our primary meeting times occur in fall, connected to the fall leadership meetings of the General Board, and in spring. The fall meetings are valuable times for the Committee to consult with its Reference Council, composed of Area Church Moderators, Secretaries, Ministers and representatives from our academic institutions.

In March, 2010, the FLC proposed to the General Board that the 2012 Assembly be focused on reading, delighting in, and interpreting Scripture. That proposal was accepted by the General Board, and the major attention of the Committee has turned to planning that event. The FLC used the November 2010 meetings with the Reference Council to test its vision for this Study Conference and then to begin the planning in greater detail. We hope to plan a conference that will be inspirational; that will reaffirm the importance of the biblical text for our churches; that will have a strong worship component; that will offer opportunity for prayer and study; and that will include presentations, workshops, artistic expression and humour. It promises to be an exciting event!

As is noted elsewhere in this docket, a by-law change is being recommended to move from annual to biennial Assembly meetings because of budget reductions. The implications for the 2012 Study Conference are being clarified as we write these reports.

Another focus of time and energy in this past year for the FLC has been the on-going series on Being a Faithful Church that has been part of the last two Assemblies. When Robert J. Suderman retired as General Secretary of Mennonite Church Canada, the General Board asked the FLC to play a greater role in the development and delivery of the next paper. A task force of six people, two from the General Board Executive (Andrew Reesor-McDowall and Donita Wiebe-Neufeld), two from the Faith and Life Committee (Rudy Baergen and Betty Pries), Willard Metzger, and Jack Suderman, was appointed by the General Board as the steering committee to continue this important conversation. The discernment process laid out in this presentation merges with the FLC concern that we value Scripture and use it well in our discernment around the important questions of our time.

We are pleased to report that we have two new members on the FLC. Doug Klassen (Pastor of Foothills Mennonite Church, Calgary) was elected by the Assembly last summer and Arnold Neufeldt-Fast (Associate Academic Dean at Tyndale University College and Seminary) from Stouffville, Ontario, was recently appointed by the General Board. Betty Pries (co-director of Associates Resourcing the Church, Waterloo, ON), Sharon Schultz (Pastor of Eyebrow Mennonite Church, SK), Rudy Baergen (Leading Pastor of Bethel Mennonite Church, Winnipeg) continue as members. Karen Martens Zimmerly, Denominational Minister, represents the staff of Mennonite Church Canada.

The FLC has the privilege of working with exciting and sometimes weighty issues. We are fully aware that without God's help we labour in vain. We cherish your counsel and prayer support.

Submitted by  
Rudy Baergen  
Chair,  
Faith and Life Committee



Rudy Baergen

# General Board Actions 2010 - Summary

## 2010-General Board Meeting 01

**Consensus #1:** The General Board (GB) accepts the GB minutes of November 13-14, 2009.

**Consensus #2:** The GB supports the "MC Canada Response to MCC New Wineskins Round Two Input and Feedback".

**Consensus #3:** The GB supports the "Faithful Church 2" affirmation statement for presentation to the 2010 Assembly.

**Consensus #4:** The GB recommends the proposed by-law changes:

- 1) for the full implementation of the Church Relations department, including the discontinuation of the Support Services Council;
- 2) for things not related to Church Relations; and,
- 3) for miscellaneous items; at the Annual Delegate Assembly in July, 2010.

**Consensus #5:** The GB recommends that we become a sponsoring denomination of Church Planting Canada.

### 6. Motion:

(Gordon Peters/Aldred Neufeldt)

To transfer from the General Treasury to Internally Restricted funds the following:

- 1) Witness Council: \$4,690 to an International Ministries Reserve (Mission Seminar);
- 2) Formation Council: \$2,190 to a Formation Reserve (funds received for the Preparation of Resources for Elders); and \$12,438 to the Youth Assembly Reserve (net surplus of the 2009 Youth Assembly). Motion carried.

### 7. Motion:

(Gordon Peters/Rudy Baergen)

To transfer from the GB Internally Restricted Fund Balances' General account, \$31,624; and, to approve the FYE-09 budget, based on a 1.07 US\$ exchange rate, a 2% salary increase, and a 0% CPI salary adjustment. Motion carried.

### 8. Motion

(Gordon Peters/Earl Reimer) to recommend the budget to the delegate assembly. Carried.

**Consensus #9:** The GB approves the Assembly Display Policy ("Appendix 10, Guidelines for Displays").

**Consensus #10:** The GB approves the appointment of Ewald Boschman to the Finance Policy and Audit Committee.

## 2010-General Board Meeting 02

**Consensus #1:** The General Board (GB) accepts the GB minutes of March 5-6, 2010, as corrected.

### 2. Motion

(Gordon Peters/Hilda Hildebrand) to accept the financial statement. Carried.

### 3. Motion

(Gordon Peters/Willard Metzger) to transfer \$6,287 more from the GB Internally Restricted Fund Balances' General account. Carried.

### 4. Motion

(Gordon Peters/Hans Werner) to recommend to the delegate assembly KPMG as our auditors for another year. Carried.

**Consensus #5:** The General Board appoints Kate Janzen as a Member-at-large on the General Board. Carried.

## 2010-General Board Meeting 03/04

**Consensus #1:** The General Board (GB) accepts the GB minutes of April 17, 2010.

**Consensus #2:** The General Board (GB) requests staff to look into the quorum issue and report back with options in November.

**Consensus #3:** The General Board (GB) supports the increase of one ad hoc FLC member until further discussion on by-law changes at the March, 2011 GB meeting.

**Consensus #4:** The General Board (GB) decided to have a study event, the details of timing and shape to be determined; to hold it in conjunction with a number of other Assembly activities; and to request staff and FLC to discuss this and bring it forward to the November, 2010, GB meeting.

**Consensus #5:** The General Board (GB) accepts the resolution for delegated action, with the addition of a footnote on Mennonite involvement.

**Consensus #6:** The General Board (GB) decided to appoint Hilda Hildebrand, Arnold Neufeld-Fast, and Marguerite Jack to the Assembly Resolutions Committee; Ardithe Frey, Dan Nighswander, and Kristina Toews to the Assembly Listening Committee; Harold Peters-Fransen as the Parliamentarian; and Lynell Bergen-Dyck as the Assistant Secretary.

## 2010-General Board Meeting 05

**Consensus #1:** The General Board (GB) accepts the GB minutes of June 29 and July 3, 2010.

**Consensus #2:** The GB accepts the minutes of the 2010 Assembly, for ratification at the delegate assembly in 2011.

**Consensus #3:** The GB approves the following policies and updates: structural updates to the personnel policy manual; the Computer and Internet acceptable use policy; hiring; personal website and social media and the IP policy.

**Consensus #4:** The GB approves, with excitement, the Christian Formation Council's Mennonite Publishing Network/Third Way Media merger proposal, as outlined in the "Mennonite Media Resources Business Plan" (September 13, 2010); as well as CFC's recommendations:

1. that prior to the enactment of a merger, a strategic plan is created outlining the means by which an ongoing, equitable Canadian voice will be ensured not only in governance, but at a praxis level – in the ongoing staffing, operation, planning and production activities of the new entity;
2. that an organizational hiring policy ensuring and mandating fair and equitable staff representation by Canadians be created; and,
3. that the board of the new entity commit to a 3-year review of the status of the merger, outlining a clear plan for evaluative conversation and review and, that further reviews be undertaken with regularity in order to monitor the health and effectiveness of the organization in relation to its mandate to serve MC USA and MC Canada.

**Consensus #5:** The GB affirms the Being a Faithful Church (BFC) task force, consisting of two representatives from the Faith and Life Committee – Rudy Baergen and Betty Pries – and two representatives from the Executive Committee – Andrew Reesor-McDowell and Donita Wiebe-Neufeld – as the group representing the GB's oversight of the BFC process.

**Consensus #6:** The GB approves the revised International Ministry Policy Manual.

**Consensus #7:** The GB approves the Christian Witness Council's recommendation to proceed with the sale of the Macau apartment purchased years ago for mission worker housing.

**Consensus #8:** The GB approves the changes made to Finance policies.

**Consensus #9:** The GB approves the changes to the Pension Advisory Committee Terms of Reference.

**Consensus #10:** The GB approves the changes to the Process to Accept New Groups (Christian) into the Mennonite Church Canada Pension and RRSP Plans.

**Consensus #11:** The GB recommends that Gordon Peters, Rudy Baergen, and Don Friesen let their names stand for another term.

**Consensus #12:** The GB reappoints Helen Kasdorf to the Financial Policy and Audit Committee; Betty Pries to the Faith and Life Committee; and Arnold Neufeldt-Fast to the Canadian Council of Churches Commission on Faith and Witness.

**Consensus #13:** The GB endorses the letter on online gambling circulated by the Canadian Council of Churches.

# Mennonite World Conference (MWC)

**Vision:** Mennonite World Conference is called to be a communion (Koinonia) of Anabaptist-related churches linked to one another in a worldwide community of faith for fellowship, worship, service, and witness.

**Mission:** MWC exists to:

## 1. Be a global community of faith in the Anabaptist tradition

- a. The Executive Committee will make a decision in May on four US MWC member churches' invitation to host Assembly 16 in Pennsylvania.
- b. A new data base is expected to be in place by September 2011.
- c. The new four-minute DVD, *Beyond Assemblies*, is available from our website or for purchase (contact SarahCain@mwc-cmm.org).
- d. The Asia volume of the five-volume *Global History* is expected by October; the North America volume by January 2012.
- e. *What We Believe Together* by Alfred Neufeld has been published in Bengali and translation into Hindi is under discussion.

## 2. Facilitate relationships between Anabaptist churches worldwide

- a. In December a four-member Deacons' Delegation visited churches and leaders in Ghana and Nigeria. Ardith Frey, Waterloo, ON, a delegation member, commented: "We heard questions about global church partnerships involving complex assumptions. We experienced vibrant worship, active youth involvement and warm hospitality... We hope our visits strengthened connections. It was a privilege and a joy to be part of [this] international delegation." Larry Miller's conversations in Ghana are expected to bring renewed understanding and cooperation.



Kristina Toews (right) and the Young Anabaptist Task Force at Work

- b. Algemene Doopsgezinde Societeit in the Netherlands, an MWC member church with 9,000 members in 118 congregations, will celebrate its 200th anniversary in September. MWC is invited to send a Koinonia delegation.



Executive Committee

- c. In January Sisca Ibanda (Congo), Cynthia Peacock (India), Carlos Alvarez Woo (Colombia) and Bert Lobe visited US Mennonite churches, colleges, seminaries and schools. We enjoyed hospitality in 25 homes and spoke to some 4,000 people. Our impression is that congregations are creatively engaged in their contexts.
- d. Kristina Toews (B.C.) will chair the Young Anabaptist Task Force beginning in July. Kristina comments: "Our purpose is to dream and discern how young people can become more involved with MWC. We're excited about working with young Anabaptists around the world. We are encouraging national churches to hear the voice of young people and invite their participation in leadership, decision and peace making."

## 3. Relate to other Christian world communions and organizations

- a. Inter-church conversations help us build bridges of reconciliation and fellowship and to be one in the Body of Christ. MWC's conversations with the Baptist World Alliance, the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, the Catholic Church and the Lutheran World Federation have resulted in significant mutual learning and witness.
- b. MWC has agreed to a Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) initiative for conversations on "Living the Christian Life in Today's World." Robert J. (Jack) Suderman, co-secretary, and Tom Yoder Neufeld will represent MWC. Irene and Jack Suderman participated in MWC global giftsharing in Indonesia and India. They engaged pastors and leaders with biblical reflection and study on the vocation of the church in society; Anabaptism and pluralism; the church's witness to peace; Anabaptism and gender; and the missional church.
- c. A preparatory meeting for a possible three-way dialogue on baptism among the Catholic Church, Lutheran World Federation and MWC took place in France March 21-23. Alfred Neufeld (co-chair), John Rempel (member), and Larry Miller (co-secretary) represented MWC.

## Mennonite World Conference is committed to strengthening its organizational capacity.

1. Larry Miller completes 22 years of superb service as MWC's General Secretary on December 31, 2011. The Executive Committee, meeting in Taipei in May, will announce his successor who will begin a five-month transition on August 1, assuming full duties on January 1, 2012.
2. Each Continental Caucus of MWC's General Council processes the work of the global church in its region. Training sessions for Africa and Asia members are in process.
3. Len Rempel joined the Kitchener staff on March 15th as Director of Finance and Administration, succeeding Karen Martin Schiedel.

We acknowledge with great appreciation Mennonite Church Canada's strong support through your people (Janet Plenert, Tom Yoder Neufeld, Jack and Irene Suderman, Kristina Toews and others), your financial support, and belief in what we are about. Thank you.

Albert C Lobe  
Mennonite World Conference  
April 2011

Dear brothers and sisters in Mennonite Church Canada:

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ. I treasure the relationship between Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Canada, and I wish you the very best as you gather in your annual assembly.

Although I began my work for Mennonite Church USA on January 1, 2010, I was formally commissioned for the work in my home congregation on March 7, 2010. It means a lot to me that Robert J. Suderman, General Secretary of Mennonite Church Canada (now retired) came to convey the blessing of Mennonite Church Canada in that ceremony. His visit was a visible demonstration of our commitment to walk together as two national churches.

Since then, I have cultivated the ongoing relationships between our two countrywide bodies in various ways. I heartily support the many meetings that take place in a variety of entities with bi-national membership, including the Joint Executive Committee. In addition to this dimension of church life, I have cultivated a relationship with your national church leaders in the following ways:

My wife Bonnie and I spent a day with Robert J. and Irene Suderman in May, 2010, gleaning their wisdom from his years in a similar role as mine. We were privileged to attend a special service at their home church which honored Irene for her years of service in the congregation.

I invited Robert J. Suderman as a speaker at Mennonite Church USA's first Leaders Forum in September, with some 200 leaders of boards, commissions, and constituent groups in attendance. He shared with us about the journey that Mennonite Church Canada has taken regarding discernment in the church.

I invited Janet Plenert, Executive Secretary of Mennonite Church Canada Witness, to participate at a Missional Church Consultation at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary in September, 2010. She provided helpful perspectives regarding the ways that the

missional impulse is reflected in organizational structures in Mennonite Church Canada.

Bonnie and I attended the commissioning for Willard Metzger as General Secretary of your national church, held in his home congregation in November, 2010. The Metzger family graciously hosted us in their home for a few days and introduced us to Mennonite organizations in the Kitchener/Waterloo area.

I helped to arrange two visits to the U.S. by Willard Metzger, including the Lancaster/Akron, Pennsylvania area in January 2010 and the Goshen/Elkhart, Indiana and Archbold, Ohio area in March 2010. We appreciate the warm hand of fellowship which he extends wherever he goes.

Bonnie and I attended the annual meeting of MCEC in Baden, Ontario in late April.

May God continue to lead us forward together as two church bodies in our commitment to follow Christ.

Together in Christ,



Ervin R. Stutzman  
Executive Director  
Mennonite Church USA

## Mennonite Church USA



Ervin R. Stutzman

# Conference of Mennonites in Mexico (CMM)

The "Conferencia Menonita de México" (CMM) was founded in 1990, and now has four local churches: Blumenau (with 361 members), Burwalde (275), Steinreich (68), and La Salada, Ascencion (35). The first three churches have grown out of the ministry of the missionaries from the former General Conference (GC), beginning in 1963, after the Hoffnungsbau Mennoniten Gemeinde in Cuauhtémoc was dissolved.

## Ministry goals and objectives:

### 1. Education (2010 budget US\$600,000):

Since the very beginning in 1963, our newly formed congregations, together with the General Conference mission workers, were very concerned about Christian instruction and formal education for their children, and they always sought to offer this to their own congregations and to the Mennonites in the wider area.

One highlight in 2010 again was in the missions work in the Colonia Reforma neighbourhood in Cuauhtémoc city. For several years now, more than a hundred schoolchildren of a local state run school in the Colonia Reforma neighbourhood have been served a warm lunch meal after their school classes in the upper floor of our mission church. (Many of these are children of unmarried women or divorced parents, etc.) After the meal, some children receive help with their homework and all of them are taught in Christian values, etc., in an extended hour program.

### 2. Mission Workshops:

Carpentry workshop with and for the mentally and physically challenged (2010 budget: US \$869,400): Approximately 30 mentally and physically challenged people work every weekday in the workshop. Last year, the same state-wide organization that in 2009 had supported our Colonia Reforma mission with more than US \$100,000 for the new 880 square metre mission building, asked our missionaries to do the same ministry for another state-operated primary school in a neighbouring area with another 330 children, and offered to finance more than 80% of the cost. Our mission board accepted this invitation, because they see it as a good opportunity to spread the gospel. This ministry also offers a warm meal and the teaching of Christian values. After participating for several months, people visit the church and want to learn more, because they are thankful for the food that their children get and they feel good about what their children are learning in that extended hour program. [See last year's report for an explanation of how the state wide non-governmental organization (NGO) "Fundación del Empresariado Chihuahuense, A.C." came to be and how they get funding to help other NGOs state wide.]

### 3. Bible School (2010 budget: US \$96,000):

The former CMM Steinreich Bible School has been operated together with the Evangelical Mennonite Church (EMC) and Evangelical Mennonite Mission Conference (EMMC) for more than seven years, with studies during January, February and March of each year. Most of the 12 teachers come from Evangelical Mennonite Conference and Evangelical Mennonite Missions Conference. There are more than 86 fulltime students and around 88 part-time students enrolled in selective courses.

### 4. Mission churches (2010 budget: US \$85,600):

Together with Evangelical Mennonite Church and the Evangelical Mennonite Mission Conference, we are engaged in ongoing mission work among the Mexican people, with two mission churches: one in Anahuac and the other in Colonia Reforma, Cuauhtémoc city.

The mission church in Colonia Reforma in Cuauhtémoc City pastored by missionaries Isaac and Maria Bergen is still growing. Many children are served. There are two community kitchens, one in Samachique in the mountains where approximately 60 Tarahumara children have their meal before they go to school, and another right in Colonia Reforma where more than 100 children receive a hot meal every day. More than a dozen persons are studying in the Spanish Bible School preparing themselves to work in the Church. There are also many people who come to Isaac and Maria Bergen for help with spiritual counselling and conflict resolution.

Peter Rempel,  
Chair  
Conferencia Menonita de México

## Mennonite Church Alberta (MCA)

### Area Church Moderator

Alberta is an exciting place to be a Mennonite these days. Many decisions and hard work by a lot of volunteers have resulted in new initiatives such as: the hiring of a couple to work with the Muslim and immigrant communities in Edmonton; a Young Adult initiative in Calgary; research being done on an Intentional Student Community, to name a few. Fundraising continues to be an issue raised at every level. We are living in an ever-changing world and to accomplish great things we are constantly reminded to keep God at the helm. Our 16 churches continue to grow, change and evolve with many new pastors on the scene.

Loretta Kroeker  
MCA Moderator

### Personnel Committee

We thank Jim Shantz for his 9 years as MC Alberta Area Church Minister. Jim will leave his position in July 2011. We wish him God's blessing as he retires and looks for new ways to serve God. Our personnel committee is in the process of looking for a new Area Church Minister.

### MCA Area Church Minister

From the viewpoint of the Area Church Ministry of Mennonite Church Alberta, the two phrases that can best sum up the last year are "Missio Dei" and "Lectio Divina!" A highlight of the past year has been a series of almost monthly Pastors Council training sessions centred around a "dwelling in the Word" exercise that has helped us to more fully discern God's mission for the world. This has included goal setting around the newly-adopted six Core Competencies of leadership. Allowing God's agenda to be our agenda will continue to be the challenge as the old paradigm of maintenance gives way to a more imaginative vision of a world reconciled to God in Christ!

Jim Shantz,  
Area Church Minister

### Camp Valaqua

Camp completed its 51st year in 2010. They have developed a school program to enable schools to explore creation on field trips. There were several extensive renovations done to buildings on site. The staff at camp is resilient and capable of handling the challenge of summer campers full of high energy. 69% of the campers come from non-MCA homes, showing that the ministry continues to be strong.

### Congregational Leadership Committee

This past year saw an agreement between pastors to meet more often for training, fellowship, a deeper search for God's direction, and use of our resources. A Theological study was done at Camp Valaqua under the direction of Professor Gordon Zerbe from CMU. Our focus this year has been on being the "Missional Church". It is widely acknowledged that the stability and equipping of pastoral leadership in our churches is essential to the growth and health of our churches and congregations.

### Missions and Service

In 2010, the Missions committee was determined to make a difference by finding ways to spread the gospel in Alberta and strengthen our churches for service. As a result, projects were started which included the "North Edmonton Ministry," the Intentional Student Community, an Anabaptist-Peace project, as well as a developing Calgary Young Adult Christian Community. One of the highlights of the year was a wonderful evening of appreciation for Alvin and Helen Lepp who have faithfully served the church among the Siksika Nation for over 30 years.

### Native Ministries Report

Serving Jesus and His people at Siksika is beset with new challenges. So vital to this ministry continues to be the prayer support from our local prayer chain along with loving support with prayers and directives from the von Guntens, Co-Directors of Native Ministry (Mennonite Church Canada) and Mennonite Church Alberta.

### Alvin and Helen Lepp

Community Building Committee

MCA has for a while affirmed Mennonite-based schools with the Tuition Assistance Program. In the 2010-11 school year, there were 21 students who applied for and were granted tuition assistance. A key insight from this initiative is that the student education experience is dependent on a strong relationship with the sending congregation. A new directive for this committee will be to develop an initiative to replace the "Songfest" which has lapsed in recent years. The new initiative will be developed as a "festival" including games, arts, music and in general a "coming together of the church people". We are excited to see how this will be developed.

# Mennonite Church British Columbia (MCBC)



Garry Janzen & Janette Thiessen

**Activity/Program:**  
An Area Church desiring to work together to achieve those things which we cannot do as easily alone.

**Ministry goals and objectives:**  
Mennonite Church British Columbia is a faith community of Christian churches with

a passionate allegiance to Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Our purpose is to enable congregations to individually and collectively engage most fully in the mission of Christ.

## Average Annual Budget:

\$485,620 MCBC

\$749,000 Camp Squeah budget

## Staff:

Garry Janzen, Executive Minister

Janette Thiessen, Office Administrator

Rob Tiessen, Camp Squeah Executive Director

Geoff Gould, Camp Squeah Internship Director

Tim Larson, Camp Squeah Program Director

Dan Friesen, Camp Squeah Site Manager

Dave Wismath, Camp Squeah Administrative Assistant/Facilities Rental Coordinator

Pam White, Camp Squeah Bookkeeper

Reid Nickerson, Camp Squeah Food Services Manager

Hiro "Yoshi" Takeda, Camp Squeah Head Chef

Caleigh Flynn, Camp Squeah Pastry Chef

## Leadership Board:

Dan Rempel, Moderator

Karen Heidebrecht Thiessen, Vice-Moderator

Linda Hoock, Secretary

John Redekop, Finance Chair

Lee Dyck, Evangelism and Church Development (ECDC) Chair

Belinda Rempel, Nominations Committee Coordinator

Laura Loewen, Church Health Committee Chair

Tom Esler, Camp Squeah Committee Chair

This year, Camp Squeah and Squeah Retreat Centre engaged in an appreciative inquiry resulting in a strategic plan that will serve as a reliable map guiding them forward with purpose and intention toward an exciting, sustainable future. A few

key priorities emerged, including further development of a long sought after internship program, fresh focus dedicated toward a marketing strategy, as well as determining the viability of hiring another staff person to support the extra workload accompanying our recent growth and subsequent new opportunities.

Food Services has been looking hard and long for the right staff to rise up to the food quality demands of a retreat centre. The people are finally in place, with a team lead by a new Food Services Manager and Head Chef. They will also include a development component for food services people. The goal is to be the best Food Service leadership team in Christian Camping.

**The SEED Internship** (Seek, Explore, Experience, Develop) - launch date is Aug. 2011. SEED is a mentoring and discipleship process that occurs within the context of the Christian community at Camp Squeah. Students will be mentored and trained in all aspects of camp work, with most learning being experiential and hands-on. Students will also be mentored in their personal life by being paired with a Squeah staff member. The discipleship will be aided by regular group Bible study, intentional reflection, practice of the spiritual disciplines, and discussions regarding students' questions around communal meals. Training in the art of running out-trips will be provided by going out and doing them, including challenges like: rock climbing, hiking, canoeing, snowshoeing, and ice-climbing. Students will serve Camp Squeah by running the Outdoor Education programs, as well as hosting specific retreats. In addition, they will be given opportunities to contribute relevantly to the local (Upper Fraser Valley) community through service assignments.

**SEED** welcomes Christians between the ages of 19 and 30 who are eagerly seeking, and who have questions of faith for which they would like to intentionally carve out time to explore. It is for those who want to share a journey with others similarly desperate for God to work in their lives. For more info see [www.squeahseed.com](http://www.squeahseed.com). Geoff Gould is the director.

The third new initiative is in response to the interest of the parents of children in the summer camps. Squeah is implementing a **Family Camp** in 2011. The week is July 25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>. The intent is to include a greater generation of people in the Squeah summer camp ministry and all the opportunities this may give.

There are many facets to the ministries of MCBC, and Squeah is one of our gems.

## Mennonite Church Eastern Canada (MCEC)

### Extending the Peace of Jesus Christ: Forming Leaders

MCEC focussed on forming leaders this past year. Through continuing education, learning events, peer-to-peer support, and discernment sessions, leaders were formed, congregations strengthened, and disciples nurtured.

The *Transitioning into Ministry* program, designed for pastors new to ministry, completed its third year. We celebrate that almost all TIM participants remain in or are returning to ministry, in contrast to statistics which indicate that a significant number of pastors leave ministry during or following their first term. We anticipate ongoing strong relationships between these pastors and the congregations that they serve as the TIM program moves forward.

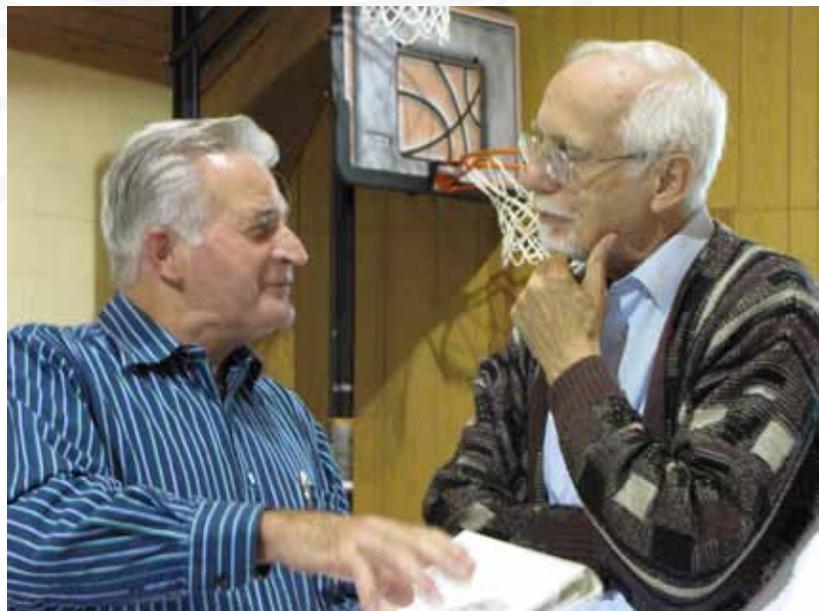
*Tending the Soul of Individuals and Congregations: Training in Spiritual Formation.* This program began as a grassroots initiative from four congregations. It offers training for congregational leaders in the awareness of God's presence and activity in our daily lives and our congregations. Through workshops, small group practice, and spiritual disciplines, thirty pastors and lay leaders are nurturing a more intimate relationship with God. As individual lives are transformed by God's Spirit, congregational spiritual formation is also strengthened and nurtured.

Congregations met together in a series of consultations across MCEC this past fall. Participants focused on what God's vision is for MCEC's future. They reflected on ministry priorities and financial provisions for the MCEC/Mennonite Church Canada mission. As participants probed these issues, a passionate call was heard to deepen relationships between the Area/National Church and the congregations, to maintain a strong Mennonite/Anabaptist identity, and to find ways of strengthening the financial health of the Church. The recommendations resulting from the consultations will set the stage for the future of God's mission of extending the peace of Jesus Christ across Eastern Canada.

Church planting continues to be an exciting area of development in MCEC. Leaders from congregations of first generation Anabaptist followers, as well as new faith communities birthed from established Mennonite congregations, gather each year for the Church Planters' Retreat. Relationships of mutuality and collegiality develop between visionary church planters over the course of the weekend. Through worship, study, and encouragement of each other, they leave empowered to continue ministering in their local settings.

We continue to be challenged to grow and be alert to hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches as we engage our communities and the wider world with the peace of Jesus Christ.

David Martin,  
MCEC Executive Minister



Fall Consultation Photo – Ernie Martin, Bethel Mennonite Church, Aldred Neufeldt, MCEC Moderator



### Executive Council:

Aldred Neufeldt (Moderator);  
Linda Brnjas (Assistant Moderator);  
Helen Eby, Bryce Kraeker, Shirley Redekop,  
Sandy Shantz, Tim Wagler, Paul Wideman

### MCEC Staff:

David Martin (Executive Minister),  
Brian Bauman (Mission Minister),  
Muriel Bechtel (Conference Minister),  
Marianne Mellinger (Coordinator of Leadership Formation),  
Mollee Moua (Administrative Assistant),  
Ester Neufeldt (Operations Minister),  
Margret Oakey (Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant),  
Al Rempel (Regional Minister),  
Joan Schooley (Administrative Assistant),  
Jeff Steckley (Congregational Ministries Minister),  
Lisa Williams (Director of Communications)

## Mennonite Church Manitoba (MCM)

Mennonite Church Manitoba is a collection of 49 congregations living out their faith in mission, worship, fellowship, biblical discernment, and prayer. This year the theme of our Gathering was "Before the Watching World: The Church Engages Culture". Our guest speakers were Phil Wagler and Aiden Schlichting Enns, and they challenged us to remain true to the Word of God and our history as we engage in rapidly changing and increasingly alien culture. The Gathering was also a time to worship our God, pray together, catch up with old friends and make new ones. Ken Warkentin was commissioned as the new Executive Director of MCM and Willard Metzger was introduced as the new General Secretary of Mennonite Church Canada.

A new initiative for us is something we call "New Directions". The MCM board engaged in a multi-church visit several years ago and we heard the congregations saying that they would like to participate more actively in local missions and reach out in meaningful ways to the community around us. We are still unpacking what that means for us, but we believe that one of these new directions is partnerships. Whether these partnerships mean two or more congregations coming together for a particular project, or partnering with other organizations to extend our tents and influence, the Holy Spirit seems to be blessing our efforts with joy and enthusiasm. "Chiara House" is one of our current projects. It is a partnership between a small congregation in downtown Winnipeg called Little Flowers, Mennonite Church Manitoba, several business people, and Eden Health Care. The goal of this project is to provide dignified housing for adults with mental disabilities, or mental illnesses.

Several significant transitions occurred this year. We said goodbye to Edgar Rempel, who retired after serving as Executive Director for seven years. We also blessed Kristy Letkeman on her way to service in Mennonite Church Saskatchewan. We are very grateful for their dedicated and faithful ministry.

**Camping Ministries:** Our camping ministry continues to provide the opportunity for hundreds of children, youth, young adults, more mature adults, and adults with disabilities to encounter God in community, in nature, and in the Word. Our three camps served 1,254 campers and provided leadership opportunities and training to 288 staff! This year Aaron Nussbaum joined our staff as the Associate Program Director, and Laura and Sheldon Dyck joined the Camp Koinonia Management Team.

**Church Community Building Ministry:** We also sing together. When we gather we sing. We sing at camps (and we write new songs to put an Anabaptist slant on our worship). We sing when we gather. And this year we sang at the concert hall. In the cold of winter almost 300 men, young men and boys came together for a weekend of rehearsing, laughing, visiting, and singing. This culminated in a fabulous concert dubbed "A Thousand Hallelujahs." It was in part a celebration of 25 years of faithful service by the Faith and Life Male Choir and its leadership.

**Evangelism and Service:** Mennonite Church Manitoba's witness is empowered and facilitated through a collaborative effort with multiple partners.

Building congregational partnerships creates opportunities to read and understand scripture with the benefit of multiple perspectives. Healthy relationships invite reflection on what initiatives empower and create dignity instead of dependence. As congregations engage in reflection on their missional identity, they encounter opportunities for discernment, including affirmation of core values and practices but also identifying necessary changes. Starting new congregations offers new opportunities to invite people into faith and a community. As these new faith communities emerge, deeply rooted in their local context, they offer a reflection of God's kingdom in contextually appropriate ways.

Collaborative efforts between congregations, individuals, parachurch organizations and MCM leaders create community, multiply resources and offer new ways to see and reflect God's emerging kingdom.

**Leadership Ministries:** Leadership Ministries helps search committees find pastors, nurtures pastors through regular cluster meetings and leadership seminars, and credentials them. A few facts:

- 15 pastoral positions were filled throughout the year;
- 6 congregations continue searching. It's exciting to see **younger pastors** taking on leadership in our congregations.
- 4 leadership **seminars** focused on two **pastoral competencies:** biblical awareness and contextual awareness. Robert J. Suderman's writings on "The Church as Discerning Community amidst Difficult Issues" as well as John Neufeld's inspiring study of Revelation provided the basis.

Henry Kliewer (Director of Leadership Ministries) is also engaged in a doctoral studies program focused on "**Covenant-Making**". This work gives shape to his **long-range vision** of Leadership Ministries in MCM. How precious our covenant with God and with each other is when practiced in faith and with care for our individual, congregational and Area Church well-being.

## Activity

A Community of 49 Congregations,  
Together presenting Jesus Christ to the world.

## Our Vision

To be a community of Congregations  
Unified in Jesus Christ,  
Living a biblical Anabaptist faith,  
Together presenting Jesus Christ to the world.

## Annual Budget

\$1,720,000

## Board of Directors

Hans Werner, Moderator;

## Directors

Erin Morash, Dan Horne, Justin Zacharias, Dave Wiebe, Dave  
Regehr, Donna Peters-Small, Karen Schellenberg.

## Staff

Ken Warkentin, Executive Director;  
Tom Seals, Treasurer;  
Alice Pound and Eva Loewen, Administrative Assistants;  
Henry Kliewer, Director of Leadership Ministries;  
Kathy Giesbrecht, Associate Director of Leadership Ministries;  
Norm Voth, Director of Evangelism and Service Ministries;  
Pam Peters-Pries, Interim Camping Ministries Administrator;  
Aaron Nussbaum, Associate Program Director of Camping Ministries;  
Darryl Neustaedter-Barg, Associate Director Media Ministries;  
Dorothea Rempel Kampen, Frohe Botschaft Producer;

## Camp Managers and Staff.

### **Camp Assiniboia**

David Hogue, Katherine Hogue, Alfridie Braun, Bill Klassen, Carla  
Bergen-Joyce

### **Camp Moose Lake**

Art & Mary Anne Falk

### **Camp Koinonia**

Sheldon and Laura Dyck

## Mennonite Church Saskatchewan (MC Sask)

This has been a positive year in Mennonite Church Saskatchewan. Our Annual Delegate Sessions, held in North Battleford in March, were ably hosted by four of our smaller congregations. The theme of "Our Shared Path" was a sequel to our challenge last year to be willing to "Voice our Hope". We focused on the stories of interaction with our First Nations neighbors. We are envisioning a series of steps, interactions and events, in cooperation with Mennonite Central Committee Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan Mennonite Historical Society leading up to 2013, when the Peace and Reconciliation Commission will culminate its hearings in our province. As we hear the stories of our peoples' relationships in the past, and develop connections and relationships in the present, we hope to grow in understanding and trust that will lead to authentic connections and understanding between us.

At our assembly, we acknowledged Dale Schiele for 30 years of leadership in the Person to Person Program in Prince Albert. He continues to head up the program there. MC Sask has partnered with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) to sponsor this program for many years. We are currently expanding the base to invite denominations from the wider church. MC Sask and MCC still provide major leadership in the new ecumenical structure "Restorative Justice Ministries, Saskatchewan." Programs are currently run in Prince Albert, Saskatoon, and Regina, and include prison visitation, Circles of Support and Accountability, Community Chaplaincy, and support for released offenders.

Last summer we held the first MC Sask "Interaction at Day in the Park" behind Mount Royal Mennonite Church in Saskatoon. The day included outdoor worship, pot luck lunch, games, visiting, a musical concert, and culminated with a watermelon and rollkuchen supper, cooked on site. The weather cooperated wonderfully and over 200 people enjoyed the experience of mutual fellowship without any reports, motions, votes, or resolutions!

We compiled a Handbook for Congregational Leaders that is designed for congregational chairs, treasurers and recording secretaries. This is available on the MC Sask website



Interaction at Day in the Park

As is always the case, our congregations have experienced transitions in pastoral leadership this year. These have included Mount Royal Mennonite, Tiefengrund Rosenort Mennonite, Fiske Mennonite, Herschel Ebenfeld Mennonite, Rosthern Mennonite, and Warman Mennonite.

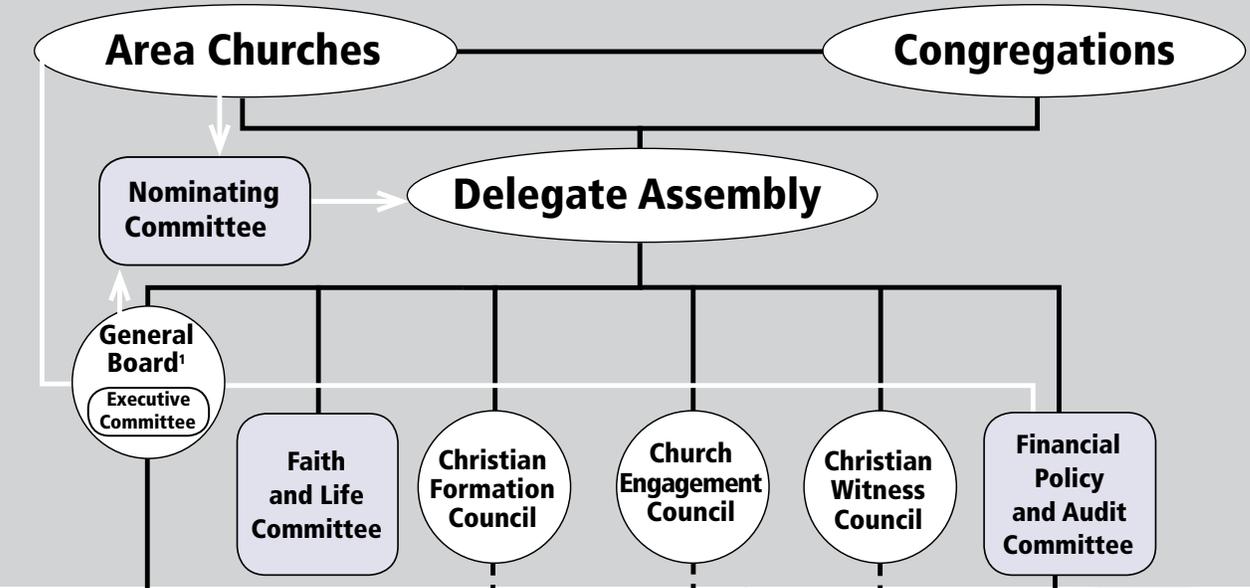
We continue to remember the special celebrations of last summer: Aberdeen, Tiefengrund, Laird, Zoar Langham, and Zoar Waldheim celebrated one hundred years of congregational life. Carrot River celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. Each was a special occasion with people from afar coming to join in. It was a poignant reminder of the far reaching influence that congregations have. We are thankful that God blesses us in big ways, even if our churches are relatively small!

Several "Peace in the Public Square" initiatives took place in the past year. Emmaus Mennonite Church at Wymark finally received permission to erect its peace sign outside of town, next to the highway leading to the United States border crossing. Saskatoon and several area churches joined in placing bus ads with peace messages on several transit buses in the city. The provincial Peace and Justice committee continues to brainstorm ideas to make our peace witness more public. They also continue to encourage and support congregations as they consider being involved in a public peace witness.

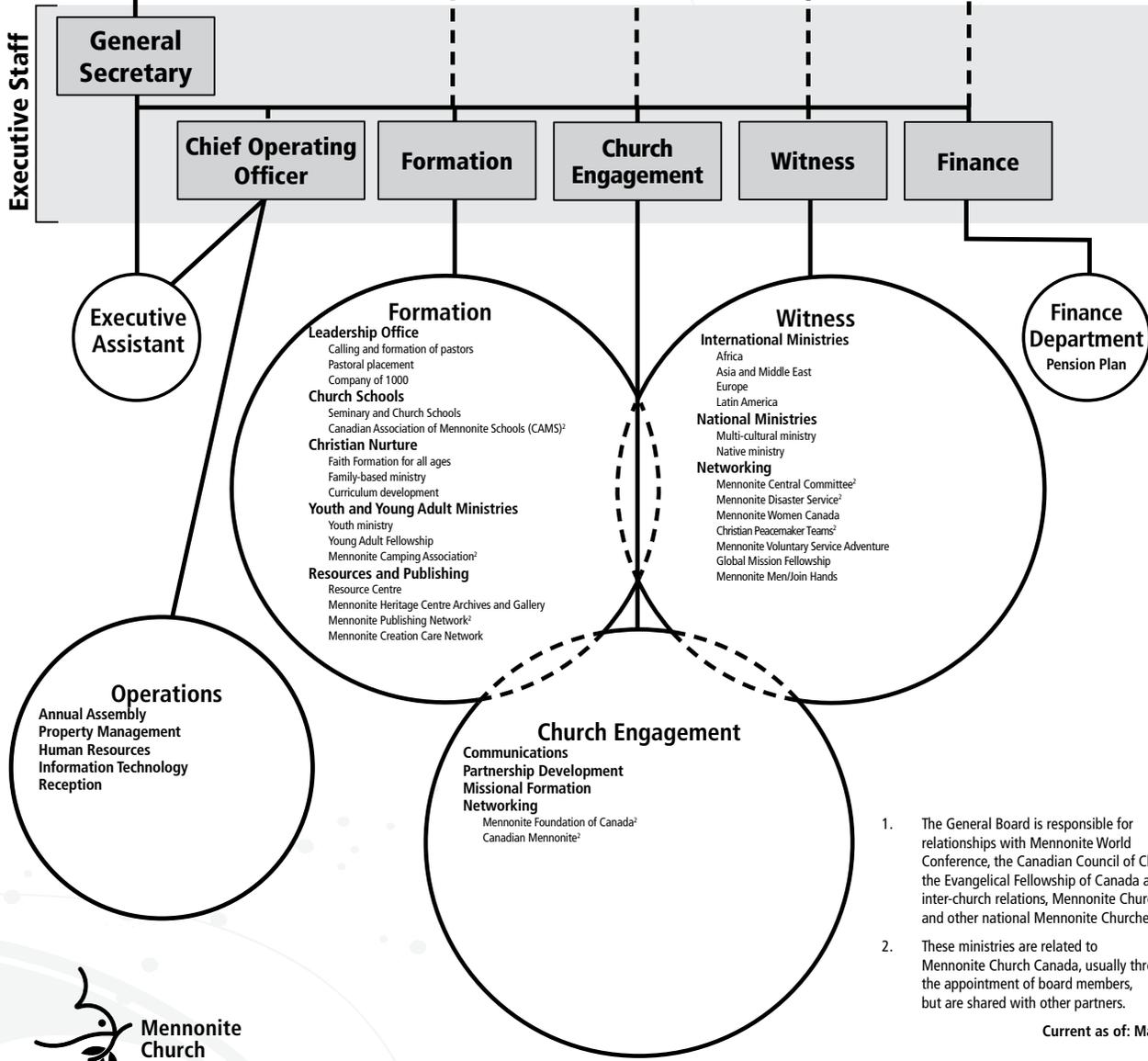
Jerry Buhler,  
MC Sask Area Church Minister

Renata Klassen,  
Moderator, MC Sask.

# GOVERNANCE



# ADMINISTRATION



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, 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: May, 2011

## Christian Formation Council



Lisa Carr-Pries

Mennonite Church Canada lives in a time of challenge and change. Many different opportunities for ministry compete for our attention, time and resources. So when we gather as a national church to celebrate and give direction to our shared work, it is imperative we bring our very best to the table. Delegates especially, but also General Board, Council members, and staff, must come prepared to offer their wisest counsel as we prayerfully discern the vocation of our church going forward. In keeping with our Assembly theme, the church, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, is called to respond to

the question, *What is "God's future" for Mennonite Church Canada?*

This annual report features a rich accounting of the many dimensions of Christian Formation ministry. These ministries are carried out in response to the careful discernment of the church. Formation ministries are essential to build up and strengthen the church for engagement in God's mission. They help call people to faith, encourage lifelong growth in Christian maturity, call out and nurture gifts of leadership, and foster a vision for God's church that welcomes all people, embraces differing gifts, and encourages deep engagement with the world God loves.

It is the task of congregations and church members to consider the degree to which we are achieving these important goals. How *are* we doing in calling people to faith in Jesus Christ? Are we *continuing* to grow in spiritual wisdom and maturity? Are leadership and other gifts being called forth and freely expressed? Is our church *truly* a welcoming place for all? And, does the *mission of God* and God's love for the world hold centre stage in all we are and do?

We are thankful to the members of the Christian Formation Council for responding to the call to serve the church in this capacity. We are thankful for the passion and dedicated, hard work of Formation staff who give tirelessly to Formation ministry both because they feel called to do so, and because they love to serve the church. And, we thank you, the members of Mennonite Church Canada, for your partnership in the ministry of Christian Formation. Through your prayers, guidance, gifts, and witness, we believe the church is being strengthened and is growing daily in faithfulness to the one we claim as our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Lisa Carr-Pries,  
Christian Formation Council Chair,  
and Dave Bergen,  
Executive Secretary,  
Christian Formation



Dave Bergen

## Formation Highlights Leadership development

The Strategic Plan Task Force on Pastoral Leadership Development has been working diligently *"to recommend a strategic plan for leadership development that will ensure sufficient and qualified pastoral and congregational leadership in Mennonite Church*

*Canada for the next two decades."* Now in its second year, this task force, led by Karen Martens Zimmerly, Denominational Minister and Director of Leadership Development, is in conversation with key partners (Schools, Area Churches and Congregations) in church leadership development and will share a preliminary report on its work with Assembly 2011 delegates in Waterloo. The Task Force will make its final report and recommendations to the Christian Formation Council in late 2011.

Mennonite Church Canada supports and participates in the work of Area Churches to equip and train leaders of our multi-cultural congregations. Currently we are partnering with MCBC to offer a course in Anabaptist History and Thought, using AMBS' Pastoral Studies Distance Education material.

Annually, pastors and spouses are offered an opportunity to participate in an event for professional growth, personal retreat, and interpersonal relationship-building. The 2010 *Ministers' Conference*, under the theme "Your Signature for Joyful Ministry," was held before last year's Assembly at Ambrose College in Calgary. It focused on strengthening pastors' ability to manage the emotional relationships that are part of ministry and was resourced by Marianne Mellinger, Coordinator of Leadership Formation for MCEC.

The 2011 *Ministers' Conference* will be held at Conrad Grebel University College, focusing on what the mission-minded Anabaptist movement has to offer to being the church in today's world. Jeremy Bergen, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies and Theology at CGUC will be the presenter.

We celebrate the generosity of contributors to Company of 1000. Since 1985, this fund has supported over 250 students. But there is still much room for growth. It would be wonderful to see the current donor pool of 150 grow toward its original goal of 1000 Company members. If even 150 new donors would each give \$200 annually toward pastoral leadership training, Mennonite Church

Canada could nearly double its support and disburse an additional \$30,000 each year to equip pastors and strengthen congregations!

One of the best investments we make as a national church is the money directed toward the preparation of pastoral leaders. In 2010, \$34,500 from Company of 1000 was disbursed to 15 individuals: 8 Master of Divinity, 2 Master of Arts, 1 Bachelor of Theology, 2 Doctoral level, and 2 Ministry Inquiry students. An additional \$4,400 was given for international leadership development. This money is helping train a church leader in Cuba and a denominational leader from the Chilean Union of Evangelical Baptist Churches that is reclaiming its Anabaptist roots.

## Church Schools

Our church schools play a vital role in forging and more widely sharing our Anabaptist identity and strengthening the capacity of Mennonite Church Canada and the wider church. A high percentage of leaders in our congregations, area churches, national church, and our outreach and service ministries credit an important part of their formation as disciples of Jesus, and as church leaders, to the influence of one or more of our church schools. Increasing enrolment of students from non-Mennonite backgrounds is a tremendous faith formation opportunity. Whether in one of the eight Mennonite elementary/secondary settings across Canada, or in one of our four post-secondary centres of academic learning and leadership development, the spiritual character and Anabaptist identity formation that is nurtured in these settings is integral to the health of our church.

While not all young people have the opportunity to avail themselves of a Mennonite church school education, the leavening effect on the church of those who do, and who go on to exercise gifts of leadership and service in the church, is unmistakable. The ministry of the whole church is shaped and strengthened by the gifts represented in our church schools. Detailed reports from these partners in ministry can be found elsewhere in this report book.

## Young Adults

The bi-national Young Adult Fellowship (YAF) hosted a Young Adult Think Tank on the Canadian Mennonite University campus November 19-21, 2010. The group, along with staff representatives from Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church USA, reviewed the history of YAF and explored a range of possibilities for the future of ministry with young adults and the role of denominations in this work. One outcome of the Think Tank was the drafting of a letter to both denominations urging the church to take tangible steps to grow stronger young adult ministry. The letter offered several ways in which this could begin to happen:

1. "collaborating across the church to call out young adult gifts and abilities, to foster engagement, and to encourage participation in the mission of local congregations;

2. eliciting the vision, passion and energy of young adults to speak into the contexts of church diversity and changing culture; and,
3. communicating and linking various young adult hubs throughout our denomination(s) to coordinate, empower, and expand these existing service and ministry opportunities."

The Christian Formation Council recognizes that much young adult ministry takes place at a local/congregational and regional level and is exploring feasible ways to respond to the directions coming out of the YAF Think Tank.

## Worship

The Bi-national Worship Council is a cooperative work of Mennonite Church Canada, together with Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Publishing Network (MPN). The Council exists to tend the worship needs and trends of the Mennonite Church. It helps the church to articulate Anabaptist-Mennonite worship understandings, and pays particular attention to the diversity of our worship patterns, working together with MPN to ensure the preparation of contextually appropriate congregational worship resources (e.g. song books) that reflect our beliefs and identity as a church.

Anticipating the early stages of a process that will lead to the consideration of a new denominational song/worship resource, the Worship Council initiated the creation of a study resource on the topic of worship. The 4-session booklet, entitled *The Heart of Mennonite Worship*, invites congregational reflection and study on why we worship as a gathered community, the peculiarly Anabaptist dimensions of worship, the implications of these understandings on worship, and the place and role of song.

Delegates at Assembly 2011 will have an opportunity to engage in this discussion as part of the work of our gathering and each congregation will be invited to include this study on worship in its 2011-12 calendar of Christian education. It is the hope of the Bi-national Worship Council that the delegate discussions and congregational study will help lay the groundwork for an informed decision on a potential new song/worship resource in the future.

In February 2011, a consultation exploring Contemporary and Alternative Worship styles (CAWS) was held in Winnipeg. This event, called "Off the Page," invited a small handful of worship practitioners and planners from across Canada, whose congregational worship practices could be collectively described as non-conventional. They were invited into a conversation to reflect on their experience and share the 'worship wisdom' they have gathered as leaders of CAWS within the Anabaptist-Mennonite tradition. This event is one of the ways Mennonite Church Canada seeks to engage, support, and resource the diverse ways we worship. It was an important beginning point in linking church leaders in this part of our church to one another and with the broader church around the important matters of worship and music.

## Christian Formation Council cont.

### Resources for the church

An important part of the Christian Formation mandate is to identify, create, and help offer resources that will address the needs and support the life of the church.

#### Resource Centre

Our most visible resource ministry is the Resource Centre, which makes a wide variety of print, visual, and electronic materials available to our congregations. Staff at the Centre link people to resources, respond to requests for material, and answer countless questions. Circulation statistics for 2010 (4086 borrowed items) were the highest on record, up 17% over 2009. While we are delighted in the increased circulation and use of the Centre, we are still reaching only 50-60% of Mennonite Church Canada congregations. We encourage our congregations to help us bring these numbers even higher by taking advantage of the wealth of congregational resources available through the Centre. This ministry exists for *all* our congregations.

In 2010, approximately 750 new items were added to the catalogue of resources. These include e-files, website links, DVDs, books, and curriculum. Culling of dated materials is an essential, ongoing task and helps ensure that users have ready access to current, relevant materials.

We celebrate the launch of the Anabaptist Resource Consortium, a unique four-way partnership of Mennonite and Brethren in Christ Resource Centre, Mennonite Church Eastern Canada Library, Columbia Bible College Library, and Mennonite Church Canada Resource Centre. This Consortium expands the range of Anabaptist resources available, enables integrating browsing of the collections of all the partners, and facilitates easy shipping across Canada from any location.

The Resource Centre communicates regularly with congregations and at Area Church events through the monthly Resource Update, Mennonite Church Canada FaceBook group postings, displays of resource materials at local and regional events, monthly contests, *Cheaper by the Dozen* promotions, and more. We value your feedback and suggestions as we continue to work at making quality resources available to support the ministry of our congregations and the wider church.

#### Resource creation

The Christian Formation Council maintains a priority of helping to make key non-English language resources available to the church. These materials help newer Mennonites from cultures around the world learn about Anabaptist-Mennonite understandings of the church and Christian life. In 2010, we were able to translate the "What makes a Mennonite?" brochure into Chin and Korean. A Laotian version is in process. We are also continuing work on an updated Laotian translation of "Confession of Faith in a

Mennonite Perspective." We gratefully receive financial gifts to support this important ongoing work.

The summer of 2010 marked an historic occasion between Mennonites and Lutherans. The Lutheran World Federation, on behalf of Lutherans around the world, asked, and received, forgiveness for past wrongdoings towards Anabaptists from the 16<sup>th</sup> century to the present day. At the invitation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, Mennonite Church Canada produced a joint Lutheran-Mennonite study guide for congregations to help both churches understand our shared story and chart a transformed way forward. This study guide will be distributed to congregations in early summer, and is available through the Resource Centre at [www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1438](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1438).

#### Christian Nurture

The office of Christian Nurture promotes and encourages the nurture of healthy Christian faith across the church, paying special attention to emerging trends and needs and facilitating the development of supportive resources. One important way this takes place is through the shaping and coordination of Assembly themes, worship, and seminar offerings. This gathering of the national church is a unique chance to shape and grow the faith of the whole church.

As in past years, we offered *Season of Prayer* resources to our congregations. The 2011 material, *Faith and hope in the midst of changing times*, by Dan Epp-Tiessen, is based on the scripture texts that shape our annual Assembly, and helps congregations immerse themselves in study and prayer on the themes that will guide our delegate gathering.

Preliminary work is being done in partnership with Native Ministries, on an aboriginal curriculum piece called "Creation's Harmony Way." This will be a sequel to the earlier piece, "Reaching up to God our Creator," and involves collaboration with a variety of partners in the aboriginal community of Mennonite Church Canada.

Mennonite Church Canada offers a range of Special Sunday worship resources to support the church in its observance of special emphases throughout the year. Materials for Mission Sunday, World Communion Sunday, Christian Formation Sunday, Stewardship Sunday, Many People's Sunday, and others help enrich the church's engagement with these important dimensions of church life and ministry. These resources are coordinated by the Director of Christian Nurture and draw on the gifts of many across the church.

Continuing the emphasis on nurturing the ministry of seniors, Director Elsie Rempel is creating a modest resource/study book that will focus on the unique ministry of older people as mentors, teachers, and spiritual guides to the younger generations of the church. It is hoped this will be available sometime in the next calendar year. In addition, a forthcoming interactive booklet for

children will help children in early years share their experiences of, and emerging thoughts about, worship with the congregation.

Contributing to and helping shape the process of envisioning and developing the next generation of Christian education curriculum is an important task of the national church. As current curriculum becomes 'tired' and congregational needs change, Mennonite Publishing Network depends on the contributions and perspective of the Director of Christian Nurture so that the church will be equipped with the tools it needs to grow the faith of the next generation of children and young people.

## Youth Ministry

In 2010, the energy of Anna Rehan, Youth Ministries Facilitator, was devoted to strengthening the network of youth ministry across the church and planning intensively for the 2011 Youth Assembly. A strong planning team, selected from Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, has worked to give shape to the events planned for the this July's Youth Assembly. Several unique service opportunities, chances to share the Assembly experience with adult delegates, and a variety of inspiring worship experiences are anticipated.

We live in an era when resources for regional (Area Church) youth ministry are more and more limited. This makes the national youth ministry task of networking, sharing resources, and supporting those giving leadership oversight to youth a challenging one. It is helpful when Area Churches and congregations create and identify events that bring together leaders of youth, and invite a national voice to be part of their conversation. These are important opportunities to share helpful resources, wrestle with shared challenges, and to offer mutual support in an important ministry.

## Mennonite Heritage Centre

### Archives

The Mennonite Heritage Centre Archives gathers, stewards, interprets, and shares the stories of individuals, congregations, and organizations that are part of the larger Mennonite Church Canada story. This is a unique and important ministry. It is only as we learn to know and understand our history that we can stay oriented in the present, and find our way into the future.

Visitors and researchers frequently use the archives to locate information for writing projects, genealogical research, personal quests, and a variety of other purposes. As the ease of information exchange via electronic means grows, more and more people also request and receive information from remote locations, without personally visiting the Centre.

Currently, catalogued archival holdings include 5511 volumes (boxes) of documents, 677 photograph collections (representing 26,560 descriptive database records), 1243 maps, 984 reel to reel recordings, 2801 cassette recordings, 67 films, 503 video

recordings, 1375 reels of microfilm, 23 microfiche collections, as well as a significant periodical collection.

Noteworthy acquisitions of materials in 2010 include:

- Jake F. Pauls papers related to his role as the last bishop of the Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Manitoba and as pastor in Morden, Winkler and Winnipeg;
- an extensive and well organized sermon collection ranging from 1938-1995 of the late Rev. Henry (H.T.) Klassen, minister, hospital chaplain, and former executive secretary of the former Conference of Mennonites in Canada's Board of Education;
- the Manitoba Mennonite Youth Organization's 1965 music catalogue from the papers of Dr. Jim Reimer;
- the Peter Peters ledger book containing rules and regulations regarding forestry service in Russia during the 1880s, including some lists of men who served;
- the annual reports about the forestry service of Mennonite men in Russia from 1902-1914, and the minutes of the Allrussischer Mennonitischer Landwirtschaftlicher Verein (A.M.L.V.).

## Gallery

- The gallery offers a unique space for artists to express their faith through visual media, and engages in bridge-building programs across cultural and faith divides. As an openly Christian and Mennonite institution, the Gallery is widely respected by multi-cultural and multi-faith groups as a place where hospitality and respect are the norm, and open conversation is welcomed. In 2010, there were six exhibits that gave witness of our Christian-Anabaptist faith to students, media, and the public.
- We are thankful for the financial support of faithful donors large and small to the Gallery, many of whom are from beyond Mennonite Church Canada congregations, and we continue to hope and pray for an increase in donor numbers from among our own constituents.

## Continuing Initiatives

- *In the Spirit of Humanity (ISH)* - sponsored primarily by the Winnipeg Foundation, Welcoming Communities Manitoba, and the Blennerhassett Family Foundation. ISH continues to focus on working in schools, now also outside Winnipeg – in Winkler, Altona, Boissevain, Waskada, and MacGregor. Funding for 2011 projects will enable the creation of an accompanying DVD and book due out in late Spring 2011.
- *Along the Road to Freedom* - A committee of Mennonites wishing to spur the creation of a permanent tribute to the strength, dignity, and Christian faith of Mennonite mothers who brought their children out of the Soviet Union is the

## Christian Formation Council cont.

inspiration for *Along the Road to Freedom*. Up to 15 paintings by Ray Dirks, curator of the gallery, and a large wood relief by Anthony Chiarella, a Manitoba artist, will comprise this special exhibit. Beginning in Winnipeg in late 2012, the exhibit will tour to connect with Mennonites across Canada.

### 2010 exhibitions

- CMU professor Pamela Leach, photographs; Winnipeg photographer Sam Baardman
- *In the Spirit of Humanity* student exhibition - over 500 artworks from the more than 1200 students (grade 2 to adult English as an Additional Language)
- Mennonite artists from the Altona, Manitoba area
- *In the Spirit of Humanity* presenters' exhibition featuring Ray Dirks, Manju Lodha, Isam Aboutd, and Dr. Sharma
- Reymond Page, member at Fort Garry Mennonite Fellowship, Winnipeg.
- *Just Food*, featuring 19 artists from 13 countries. Included Mennonite Church Canada associated artists from BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario. This exhibit will also be on tour at Assembly 2011 at Conrad Grebel University College.
- *Here in This Place* - juried group exhibition to complement CMU's Refreshing Winds event.

### Challenges

The Formation staff and Christian Formation Council work in close partnership to help form the faith and witness of our church, and to equip individuals, congregations, and Area Churches so that together we are able to meet the challenges and opportunities that are set before the church in this time.

In a time of declining resources for national church ministry, and increasing energy and attention to local/congregational ministry, we need the wisdom of our congregations to discern the best way forward for the work of Christian Formation.

- What matters of faith, life, and ministry is Mennonite Church Canada Christian Formation best positioned to assist your congregation with?
- What stories do you have to share that will inspire others in the body to greater faithfulness?
- What can you affirm about how the work of Christian Formation is supporting your corner of the Mennonite church world?
- How can we inspire one another to greater generosity and partnership so that the whole church will grow and live with greater faithfulness to the mission of God?

We depend on your prayers, your counsel, your gifts, and your

In 2010, 55 pastors were placed in 48 Mennonite Church Canada churches and 1 care home:

- 20 lead pastors
- 8 associate pastors
- 8 youth pastors
- 5 interim/transitional pastors
- 9 part-time pastors (1 lead, 3 youth, 1 music, 1 interim, 2 co-pastors)
- 4 other pastoral positions were filled: outreach and evangelism coach, congregational care coordinator, area church executive director, area church multi-cultural placement, and 1 pastoral assistant in a care home.

involvement. Yet, this is not our work, it is God's, and it is God who invites our engagement with a grand project that exceeds our imagination even as it inspires our response.

**Christian Formation staff team** as of April, 2011: Dave Bergen, Executive Secretary; Lois Bergen, Executive Assistant; Karen Martens Zimmerly, Denominational Minister and Director of Leadership Development; Elsie Rempel, Director of Christian Nurture; Arlyn Friesen Epp, Resource Centre Director; Miriam Tshimanga, Administrative Assistant, Resource Centre; Alf Redekopp, Heritage Centre Director; Conrad Stoesz, Archivist; Connie Wiebe, Administrative Assistant Mennonite Heritage Centre and Gallery and Administrative Assistant to Youth Ministries; Ray Dirks, Mennonite Heritage Centre Gallery Curator; Anna Rehan, Youth Ministries Facilitator.

**Partners in Christian Formation** bringing a variety of gifts and skills to the formational ministry of the church: Mennonite Publishing Network; Mennonite Camping Association; Mennonite Creation Care Network; Mennonite post-secondary schools: Canadian Mennonite University, Columbia Bible College, Conrad Grebel University College, Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary; Canadian Association of Mennonite Schools and its Mennonite Church Canada affiliated members: United Mennonite Educational Institute, Rockway Mennonite Collegiate, Westgate Mennonite Collegiate, Mennonite Collegiate Institute, Winnipeg Mennonite Elementary Schools, Rosthern Junior College, Menno Simons Christian School, Mennonite Educational Institute; North American Young Adult Fellowship.

**Christian Formation Council members 2010:** Lisa Carr-Pries (chair), Tom Yoder Neufeld, Campbell Nisbet, Florence Benson-Umpherville, Van Hoa Chau, Pauline Steinmann, Earl Reimer, Veronica Dyck, Naomi Unger, Gareth Brandt.

## Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS)

AMBS celebrated the inauguration of Sara Wenger Shenk as president on October 24, with Karen Martens Zimmerly, Denominational Minister and Director of Leadership for Mennonite Church Canada, bringing the message.

Dr. Wenger Shenk, in her address, outlined the three-fold work of the seminary:

- Cultivate worship as our primary theological home, with AMBS continuing as a centre of creativity to lead us "into the presence of the Holy";
- Cultivate the Word as storied theology, so that AMBS will continue to equip leaders to articulate and interpret the Scriptures;
- Cultivate practices as embodied theology, with AMBS being devoted to forming lives that are authentically Christ-like.

### Serving Mennonite Church Canada

AMBS's mission of educating followers of Jesus Christ to be leaders for God's reconciling mission in the world includes many ways of serving Mennonite Church Canada:

- Monthly webinars bring resources directly to those who are looking for worship ideas and insights into scripture, theology and pastoral care for challenging situations.
- Students who come to AMBS from Mennonite Church Canada are formed for ministry where God is calling them. Nine students from Mennonite Church Canada have graduated or will graduate in 2010 and 2011.
- !Explore: A Theological Program for High School Youth gives young people a sample of theological study and encourages them to listen for God's call.
- Online courses make it possible for students anywhere in the world to join in some classes.
- Pastoral Studies Distance Education, an undergraduate program in ministry preparation, currently has four Canadian students.
- *Vision: A Journal for Church and Theology* is co-published with Canadian Mennonite University.
- Staff serving Canadian congregations and area churches are Sherri Martin-Carman, Admissions Counsellor and Development Associate, and Ken Hawkey, Associate Director of Development.

### Financial support from Mennonite Church Canada

AMBS is grateful for support from Mennonite Church Canada—friends, congregations, area churches and the denomination—and for the opportunity to serve as the seminary for Mennonite Church Canada.

The budget for 2009–2010 was \$3,421,331 CDN and gifts from Canada totaled \$478,823 CDN (based on the exchange rate on June 30, 2010). Canadian donors contribute through Mennonite Church Canada or directly to the seminary. AMBS is recognized as a charity on Schedule VIII by Canada Revenue Agency and online donations to AMBS in Canadian dollars are possible through PayPal.

Currently AMBS is seeking partners who will join in supporting special projects:

- Renovation of the Chapel of the Sermon on the Mount, making it accessible to people with physical challenges.
- New Anabaptist Leaders Scholarships to encourage gifted students to study at AMBS.
- Creation of the Center for Faith Formation, which will collaborate with the church to nurture authentic and vibrant faith across the life span and will ensure continuation of !Explore.

### More information

See what's happening at [www.ambs.edu](http://www.ambs.edu) or follow AMBS on Facebook. Keep in touch from a distance by listening to recordings on iTunes U of chapel sermons, lectures and other presentations.



Sara Wenger Shenk was inaugurated as president of Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary on October 24, 2010.

# Canadian Mennonite University (CMU)

On behalf of CMU, I am deeply grateful for the role that CMU continues to play as an Anabaptist Christian post-secondary alternative within and on behalf of Mennonite Church of Canada. Our mission, *“to inspire and equip women and men for lives of service, leadership, and reconciliation in church and society”* remains vital.

## HIGHLIGHTS

This year CMU marked its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a variety of celebrations that have made this a very special year. On October 29, 2010, nearly 500 people gathered to acknowledge the formation, present reality and future vision of CMU. We followed that with two 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary concerts in March of 2011, featuring the full complement of CMU’s choral ensembles. The reality and potential of a young university serving the church and society is a remarkable story.

A vital part of the church’s mission in Canada, CMU continues to partner with five denominations in graduate theological education and pastoral leadership development. CMU’s Office of Ministry Inquiry continues to help students actively discern their call to ministry. This year CMU launched a Pastor in Residence program, encouraging spiritual growth and building connections with our churches, welcoming pastors **Carol Penner** of Vineland Mennonite Church, Ontario and **Dan Unrau** of Fraserview Mennonite Brethren Church, B.C. to our campus.

Faculty continue to be committed to build, strengthen, and support the mission of the Church. In addition to their important teaching and research, CMU professors have once again served from Quebec to British Columbia in **weekend portables, workshops, conferences**, and in **worship participation**.

In February, 2011, **CMU’s Institute for Theology and the Church (ITC)** hosted the **Refreshing Winds Conference** with keynote input from Brian McLaren and Steve Bell. ITC also supports two church journals: **Vision**, a joint CMU and AMBS venture; and **Direction**, a Mennonite Brethren publication.

This past year we graduated 95 students – CMU’s **largest graduating class ever**. We also recognized 60 graduates in Conflict Resolution Studies and International Development Studies at Menno Simons College (MSU) and celebrated the discipleship learning of 64 Outtatown students.

With our chapel theme for 2010-2011, **Here in This Place**, we rooted student faith experience within the story of Jacob in *Genesis 28*. In twice weekly chapels, faculty and guests sought to open God’s encounter within the studies and community life of our students.



**CANADIAN MENNONITE UNIVERSITY**

**Fall 2010 enrolment** began with 597 students at the Shaftesbury Blvd. campus – 494 undergraduates, 39 in graduate programs, and 64 in Outtatown. Over 1,000 students registered for one or more courses at Menno Simons College. 68% of CMU students come from Manitoba, 9% from Ontario, 7% from Alberta, and 6% each from Saskatchewan and B.C. About half of our students come from Mennonite congregations.

**Programs at CMU** continue to grow. This year CMU opened its **science laboratory** as well as a **communications and media production space** and announced a **business administration co-op degree program**. In 2011, Outtatown will add a **new French Africa program** in addition to its Guatemala and South Africa sites.

In the fall of 2010, I accepted the CMU Board’s renewal of my term as President until July 2012. A key focus of my work during this time involves CMU’s significant capital campaign for a new library, learning commons and campus bridge. This initiative is a very significant effort to strengthen our academic program and unite our community life and campus, and offer an increasingly important resource to the church and broader community.

Thank you for your partnership in the ministry of Christian university education.

Gerald Gerbrandt  
President

# Columbia Bible College (CBC)

## At a Glance...

**Our Mission:** "Preparing people for a life of discipleship, service and ministry" by offering schools of discipleship, ministry preparation, and continuing education; and resourcing evangelical churches of our region for their mission.

Number of Students (Approximate)

**Discipleship:** 130

**Ministry preparation:** 340 (Pastoral, Counselling, Early Childhood Education, Educational Assistant, Intercultural Studies, Outdoor leadership, Youth work, Worship Arts)

**Continuing Education:** Several hundreds in courses, seminars, and conferences.

## Key Initiatives

Celebrating 75 years of providing Biblical education for our churches!

Nearing completion of capital campaign to begin construction of 135 Bed Residence.

Upgrading major software programs and website.

Linking with marketing firm to assist with communications.

Launching **Globe Quest** – Adventure Travel program for Alumni and Friends: Our first trip is scheduled for June 13-29 in Israel-Sinai. Follow the link on the CBC home page (GlobeQuest Travel – Adventure – Learning) for additional trips planned throughout the coming year.

**Annual Budget:** \$6.1M;  
Funded provincially.

**Reporting to:** Special Assembly comprised of delegates from BC Mennonite Brethren and MC British Columbia. Informally connecting with Mennonite Church Canada's Christian Formation via David Bergen, Executive Secretary.

## Feature Stories

*"Founded on the Word; Focused on the Mission"* is the theme for our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year. From small, church-based Bible schools in the 1930s, Columbia has drawn the strands together to now serve about 500 students per year and many churches, both within the Mennonite family as well as the wider church. Over 8000 students have gained Biblical knowledge, strengthened their faith, clarified life direction, and sharpened skills for life and ministry. What an impact when one thinks about the influence for good one has over the course of a lifetime!

We are very grateful to rebuild our on-campus residence capacity once more. We hope it will be ready in late fall.



Ron Penner, President



The BearCats Mens' Volleyball Team won the Canadian Colleges Athletic Association National Championship this spring. To be granted the Team Spirit award by the referees was also strong credit to the witness of the men on this national stage.

For more information visit [www.columbiabc.edu](http://www.columbiabc.edu)

# Conrad Grebel University College (CGUC)

## Welcome to Waterloo!

We are pleased to welcome the Mennonite Church Canada Assembly to the uWaterloo campus and to Conrad Grebel. We invite you to visit the College to learn more about our unique academic programs and the "home away from home" we provide for students.

## Rich Resources for Graduate Theological Studies

In 1987, Conrad Grebel established a graduate program in Theological Studies. Most of the 30 to 40 students enrolled each year are engaged in or preparing for pastoral ministry. Others go on to pursue doctoral studies. Since 2006, the Master of Theological Studies (MTS) degree has been awarded jointly by Grebel and the University of Waterloo. Students are now eligible for housing, health insurance, and other benefits through uWaterloo. Conrad Grebel offers more than \$70,000 in awards to MTS students each year, including full tuition scholarships for all full-time students.

Among the faculty members teaching graduate Theological Studies at Grebel are Tom Yoder Neufeld (New Testament), Derek Suderman (Old Testament), Jeremy Bergen (Theology), Arnold Snyder (Church History), and James Pankratz (Religious Studies).

## Grebel Numbers

- over 3,900 course enrolments in more than 75 undergraduate courses each year
- 160 students with a major, minor, or diploma in Peace & Conflict Studies

- 80 students with a major or minor in Music, including Church Music & Worship
- 240 residence, apartment, and off-campus associate students each term
  - 42% of these are from Mennonite congregations in Canada and the US
  - 7% are from Western Canada
- 2 refugee students sponsored by the College and living on campus
- 42 students participated in a Reading Week service trip to the Gulf states
- \$6.4 million operating budget in 2010-11

## Building Project

We are planning a major expansion of the Library, additional space for Music, Peace & Conflict Studies, and graduate Theological Studies, and new space for the Mennonite Archives of Ontario. This \$6.3 million addition will also significantly enhance the front entry and add public gathering space. As of March 1, 2011, we have reached 70% of our \$3.7 million fundraising goal.

## Presidential Transition

Dr. Henry Paetkau will conclude his term as President on June 30, 2011 after 8.5 years. The July assembly will be a wonderful opportunity for newly appointed president Dr. Susan Schultz Huxman to be introduced to our partners at Mennonite Church Canada.

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# Canadian Association of Mennonite Schools (CAMS)

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 Education 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 Ont.

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.

In the past year, we have gathered on several occasions. In October, administrators met on the campus of Rockway Mennonite Collegiate to discuss a number of issues. The majority of CAMS schools were able to send band and choral students to Winnipeg to participate in the Music Festival April 8-9, 2011. The musicality shared at the Choral & Band Finale Concert was heartily received by the appreciative audience. Praising God through music was an exhilarating experience for all! Our CAMS schools will convene in Gimli, Manitoba in February 2012 to participate in an educators' conference.

Bob Hummelt  
Chair

## Mennonite Publishing Network (MPN)

Home of Faith & Life Resources and Herald Press

A ministry of Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church USA

### FRONT BURNER WORK

Worship and music study guide: Mennonite Publishing Network (MPN) is working closely with both Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church USA to identify worship and music trends and discern what resources will be most helpful to churches in the future. Part of this discernment is the question of whether and when a new hymnal should be published. The binational Worship Council has developed a study guide and survey on worship and music. The survey will be administered at this assembly and also at the Mennonite Church USA convention.

Sunday school curriculum: The Gather 'Round curriculum was designed to last eight years. It is now in its fifth year of use. We are looking ahead to what comes next—what are the needs of children, youth and families in the future? How can we, together with our parent denominations, increase advocacy and support for Christian formation not only through our schools, but also through our congregations and families? Questions such as these were discussed at a consultation with Christian educators in November. Reports of that consultation are on the MPN website ([www.mpn.net/sundayschool/](http://www.mpn.net/sundayschool/)), which includes opportunities for ongoing dialogue.

A new publishing and media agency: In September, the MPN board unanimously approved a plan calling for MPN to join

with Third Way Media to create an exciting new publishing and media agency. The merged entity, which is being called MPN/Third Way until a new name is chosen, presents us with an opportunity to produce quality Christian resources in multiple formats—print, video, radio and web—for both the formation and witness programs of our church. The merger will also result in efficiencies as we combine staffs and facilities. The merger, which calls for the operations now based in Scottdale to be moved to Harrisonburg, will mean the end of more than 100 years of Mennonite publishing activity and denominational institutional presence in Scottdale. The new agency will continue to have staff and a distribution centre in Canada. The agency will continue to work with a binational lens in its selection of writers and advisory committees for the development of a variety of books and resources.

CEO search: With my retirement this summer, I will complete eight years of leadership as MPN executive director. I have appreciated the opportunity to serve in this ministry. A search committee for an executive director of MPN/Third Way began its work last fall. The search committee includes a U.S. and a Canadian member of the MPN board as well as a representative from both Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada.

Report by Ron Rempel,  
Executive Director, Mennonite Publishing Network,  
for Mennonite Church Canada Assembly, July 2011

# Mennonite Camping Association

Mennonite Camping Association, established in 1960, links Mennonite Camps with each other and with Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church USA. It promotes Christian camping from an Anabaptist perspective and strengthens outdoor ministries in our denomination in a variety of ways. Major Camping Association events are the semi annual bi-national and regional conventions. This is the year for regional conventions and planning for the next bi-national Convention, in 2012, has not yet begun.

In last year's report, I gave camping ministry as an example where we can be grateful to be serving the church from a Canadian base, because the camps in the USA have a more distant relationship with the denomination. However, both denominations have worked hard at decreasing that distance this year.

Mennonite Camping Association has long had a large and interactive display presence at the Mennonite Church USA Conventions, while in Canada, there has generally been a small, unstaffed display. This year, they were invited to submit seminar proposals for the Canadian Assembly and submitted three proposals, and camp related seminars are being offered for youth and adults. Mennonite Camping Association hopes this can be a positive way of building connections between camping ministry and the church at Mennonite Church Canada Assemblies.

Last year, Mennonite Church USA withdrew its administrative support (Evon Castro had included Mennonite Camping Association as part of her portfolio as an Administrative Assistant) and the financial umbrella under which Mennonite Camping Association has functioned. At this fall's board meetings, the leadership acknowledged Evon's long term of service with a thank you dinner. Major time and energy was given to meeting with Marty Lehman, Director of Church-wide Operations for MC USA. Their meeting produced the following agreement:

- Mennonite Church USA will resume receiving contributions addressed to Mennonite Church USA for the Mennonite Camping Association.
- Mennonite Church USA will set up an online giving site page for Mennonite Camping Association for donors to designate their giving. Mennonite Camping Association will encourage online giving as a way of reducing the staff time of processing checks and issuing receipts.
- Mennonite Camping Association will again use the toll free number and calls will be transferred to the president.
- Mennonite Camping Association will use MC USA's phone conferencing system. About twice a year they have a need for a phone conference meeting. Kathryn Rodgers will be the contact person for this.
- Since the camps are official organizations of Mennonite Church USA, Mennonite Camping Association will be included in the Mennonite Church USA exhibit area at conventions.

- Mennonite Church USA will promote the camps whenever possible. The camps have many amazing stories of how lives have been changed as a result of being at their camp.
- Mennonite Church USA will hold meetings at the Mennonite camps as often as possible.
- The Mennonite Church USA denominational minister for youth will be part of the Mennonite Camping Association board. This will allow linkage between the denomination and the Mennonite Camping Association. It will also be a link between Mennonite Camping Association and Constituency Leaders Council.

In lieu of providing administrative support, Mennonite Church Canada provides an annual grant of \$500 to the Mennonite Camping Association board. Some of the fruits of the conversation between the Camping Association and Mennonite Church USA, listed above, might stimulate Mennonite Church Canada Formation as it thinks about ways it could strengthen its relationship with our Mennonite Camps and the Mennonite Camping Association. These camps are significant places of faith nurture and leadership development for the children, youth and young adults of our congregations, and often serve as effective avenues of outreach and serving the needs of our wider communities.

The denominational representatives on this board present the priorities and recommend resources from our denomination, and from our publisher, Mennonite Publishing Network, to the board and convention participants, and affirm the camps for their contribution to Mennonite Church Canada's three priorities: Forming a People of God, Becoming a Global Church, and Growing Leaders for the Church. I increase Camp staff's awareness of and appreciation for Mennonite resources by staffing a table of selected resources at the bi-national convention. Both representatives report back to our denomination about the way Mennonite Camping Association camps seek God's face in creation, receive God's Love in Christ, and radiate God's love in Christ.

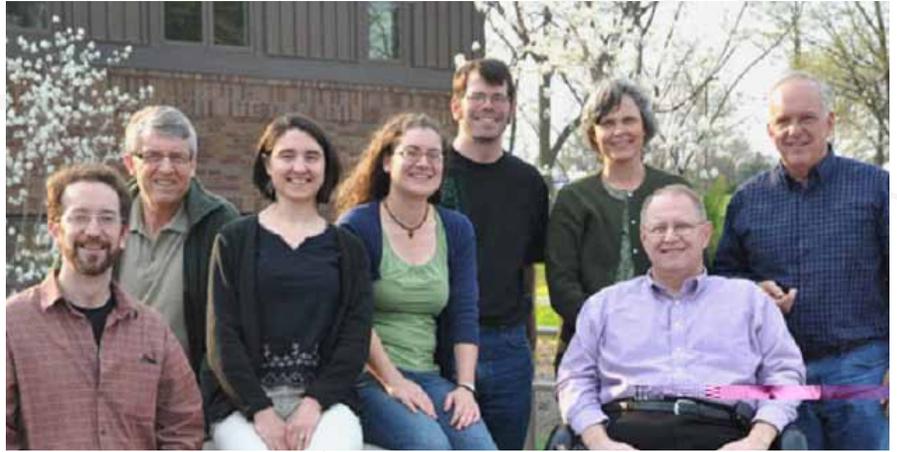
Current Board Members are: Olivia Bartel (Camp Mennoscah, Murdock, Divide, KS), Ken Bontrager (Camp Deerpark, Westbrookville, NY), Lanny Millette (Camp Hebron, Halifax, PA), Lori Lichti (Amigo Centre, Sturgis, MI), Doc Johnson, (Mennohaven, Tiskilwa, IL), Eric Musselman (Glenbrook Day Camp, Stouffville, ON), Elsie Rempel (Mennonite Church Canada), Kent Miller (Mennonite Church USA).

As indicated by this brief report, the work of Mennonite Camping Association in linking the camps with each other and the broader church forms a vital part of calling, equipping and sending the church to engage the world with the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ. To get a broader view of life at our camps, you can view past newsletters at: [www.mennonitecamping.org/newsevents.html](http://www.mennonitecamping.org/newsevents.html).

Submitted by Elsie Rempel

## Mennonite Creation Care Network (MCCN)

In 2005, Mennonite Church Canada/USA appointed representatives to the Mennonite Creation Care Network (MCCN). The vision statement of MCCN is as follows: "Christ, who created the world in peace and sustains all things, calls us to be stewards of the earth and to bring rest and renewal to the land and everything that lives on it. In response to this call, we will equip lay people and leaders with tools, resources and models that will educate, encourage, and inspire the church to care for creation, which is an expression of God's love.



Mennonite Creation Care Council (from left to right): David Neufeld (Winnipeg, MB), Greg Bowman (Salem, OH), Karla Detweiler (Iowa City, IA), Joanne Moyer (Winnipeg, MB), Dave Hockman-Wert (Corvallis, OR), Jennifer Halteman Schrock (Goshen, IN), Jim Smith (Goshen, IN), Luke Gascho (Goshen, IN)

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 neighbors.
- Act faithfully to restore the earth.

This bi-national volunteer council meets several times per year (once in person and once or twice via computer and phone conference). Staff from the Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center of Goshen College and from Everence (formerly Mennonite Mutual Aid) provide continuity between meetings and manage a web site for MCCN. With its stewardship emphasis, Everence is a natural partner and our major financial supporter. Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Central Committee Canada help defray partial travel costs of the two Canadian members.

The Mennonite Creation Care Network promotes environmental stewardship activities with regional grassroots groups and institutional agencies to inspire people to be agents of change at home and in the global context. Current activities include: developing communications materials, collecting stories of Mennonites caring for the environment, and building a network within our constituency of those for whom the environment is an ongoing concern. We serve our National and Area Churches in an educational role by assisting with the greening of our gatherings in many practical ways, and presenting and coordinating creation-care themed workshops and activities at these gatherings, as well as to churches and conferences on invitation.

Sustainability Plan: MCCN council members developed a sustainability plan for 2010-2011. The plan reviewed MCCN's historical background, assessed the current condition of organizational operations, defined issues confronting the

organization, developed a list of desired outcomes for effective mission, and developed an action plan. Long-term action points included development in the following areas: congregational liaisons, contacts with denominational agencies, strategies for communications, a promotional campaign entitled "100 Shades of Green," and support for the development of MCCN Canada. The planning also focused on exploratory actions for a publishing project, MCCN staffing support needs, and the promotion of the "Green Congregation Scorecard" usage. The implementation calls for ongoing contact with denominational leaders, the development of measures to track MCCN's successes, and decisions about new resources and finances for longer term ministry.

Fundraising: At present there is no mechanism to receive Canadian donations to support the work of Mennonite Creation Care Network. David Neufeld and Joanne Moyer met with representatives from Mennonite Foundation Canada and Mennonite Church Canada to discuss options for fund raising in Canada. There may be a future possibility of framing specific projects as a "partner project" within the Mennonite Church Canada system.

**Web site:** The web site continues to grow, including advice to congregations, travel suggestions for people attending summer assemblies, and links to many resources. MCCN revised its Congregational Score Sheet to make it more user-friendly and added a one-page discussion guide for each category covered. These are available on our congregations page at [www.mennocreationcare.org/](http://www.mennocreationcare.org/).

**100 Shades of Green:** The 100 Shades of Green initiative was launched in the fall of 2009 with ads in *The Mennonite*, *Mennonite Weekly Review*, and *Canadian Mennonite* online. The goal is to find 100 churches that register their creation care story with MCCN. Approximately 350 copies of a promotional poster, along with a letter of invitation, were distributed to member

## Mennonite Creation Care Network (MCCN) cont.

congregations of Mennonite Church Canada in the Fall, 2010. Mennonite Central Committee Canada contributed to the printing of the poster and also ordered some to distribute within their networks. As of January, 2011, 46 congregations had registered with the Shades of Green Campaign. Database membership recently passed 500.

**Mennonite Church Assemblies:** MCCN keeps an active and visible presence at Canadian and USA Assemblies, with workshops at the youth and main assemblies, as well as a booth, and other activities, such as a travel survey at the Calgary Assembly in 2010. This allowed MCCN to estimate the energy impact of travel to these gatherings. A green audit report was produced with Mennonite Church Canada staff, and a story about it appeared in *Canadian Mennonite* (pp 16, Nov. 29, 2010, Issue 14-23). More recently, travel suggestions were posted on the website and linked to the Mennonite Church USA sustainability page. Ways to improve event sustainability continue.

**Music Project:** MCCN continues to be in conversation with Bryan Moyer Suderman (Small Tall Music) about the possibility of collaborating on a CD project that would promote creation care through music. The vision is to produce a compilation album with songs submitted by artists within the Mennonite community.

**Council Transitions:** David Neufeld is leaving his position on Council in 2011. He began in 1991 as a member of the bi-national "Environmental Task Force". Since then, David served six consecutive terms through the present. Joanne Moyer, who began her role in 2006-2009 (1st term), has begun her second term 2010-2013. Joanne is a joint appointee of Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Central Committee. Dave Hockman-Wert renewed his term in June 2010. The Council said farewell to Nekeisha Alexis-Baker of Elkhart, IN, in April 2010. Two council member positions remain vacant. Recommendations for Mennonite Church USA members can be sent to Luke Gascho (lukeag@goshen.edu). Recommendations for Canadian members can be sent to Dave Bergen of Christian Formation Council (dbergen@mennonitechurch.ca).

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## Christian Witness Council



Janet Plenert

### The cloud of Witnesses 2010

How amazing it is to be surrounded by a great cloud of Witnesses! Witnesses are those who observe and experience something that has happened. Witnesses are those who carry out the act of witnessing – or testifying – to what they have heard and seen. The book of Hebrews reveals a great list of biblical witnesses who have been sources of encouragement and examples for us throughout the generations. These witnesses are the heroes of

the church! Imagine how great a list we could make today! In addition to the witnesses listed in the well known Hebrews passage, it is worth highlighting some more contemporary heroes, witnesses today.

### Among these we want to list

- The Witness staff! Each of these dedicated persons goes above and beyond in striving to work in a strongly rooted,

thoroughly biblical, respectful partnership mode while listening carefully to congregations and ministry partners in Canada and beyond.

- In an email dated October 9, 2010, Carmen Friesen of Altona wrote to Hippolyto Tshimanga: *"You don't know me but I got your email address from Rick Neufeld, the pastor of the Altona Bergthaler Church. I was attending the Bergthaler Church this past Sunday as a guest as my daughter was in the Central Manitoba Youth Choir. I wanted to let you know that I really enjoyed listening to you and found your message very encouraging and engaging. My daughter also mentioned that she hung off of every word you spoke. Your message of compassion was well received."*
- IMPaCT Pastors (International Mennonite Pastors are Coming Together) - Pastor Shi, one of the leaders of "China Vision", a group of church leaders that Mennonite Church Canada relates to closely in China, participated in IMPaCT 2010 in BC. Our worker in China, Jeanette Hanson, reflected that he came back with such a good experience, and said "...how it was so different than just a visit and how he had learned from it" that China Vision pastors were asking about IMPaCT plans for the next few years.
- At the Mennonite Church Canada 2009 Youth Assembly, youth groups from across the country sponsored 7550

MCC school kits. Together with support from Mennonite Central Committee and the Emergency Committee of the Cuba Council of Churches, these kits were sent to Cuba for distribution to schools in the Holguin region, hardest hit by the 2008 hurricanes Faye, Gustav and Ike. The shipment finally cleared customs in July 2010. Many of the recipient schools wrote with appreciation of this resource, including this quote:

*"Esteemed Acquaintances: All of the present students of the Elicenio Blanco Lores school from the municipality of Baracoa, send our heartfelt thanks for this gesture of solidarity from the Minonist (Mennonite) Church Canada with our school, and for donating to us materials of great importance for our educational work. These materials will contribute to the further strengthening of our teaching efforts. We give you our thanks for your humanism (sic), for honestly contributing to the education in our country, understanding that we truly need (these items) and we know how to use them correctly in the way they deserve to be used. We will know how to highly value education as deserves our country. Thanks to all. We will always remember you with love."*

*(From) the students and workers of the Elicenio Blanca Lores School Baracoa Municipality, Guantánamo province, CUBA*

- *"(Erv and Marian Wiens) are a good example of servant leadership. KAC (Korean Anabaptist Centre) staff is humbled, strengthened and challenged by their life giving witness to Christ. It's been really helpful for us to grow... There are lots of reading materials at KAC but Wiens' living presence itself with us is most encouraging and nourishing for the growth of KAC as well as other churches."* —Kyong Jung Kim, speaking about Erv and Marian Wiens in an assignment review.
- Palmer Becker Special Assignment teaching in East Asia (Korea, China, Macau and Vietnam), Mar. 12-May 10, 2010. Following his teaching at the Mennonite Church in Vietnam, Palmer reflected... *"These are exciting days for the Mennonite Church in Vietnam. Today we had the official opening ceremony for the Vietnam Mennonite Bible College! ... All of Vietnam is developing very rapidly. When I asked one pastor about his vision for the future, he said, 'I am praying that the Mennonite Church of Vietnam will develop at an even faster rate than we are seeing in our country... I believe it is happening... I feel very privileged that I got to teach the very first students and the very first week of classes in this new school.'"*
- In an email dated October 28, 2010, Tim Wenger, one of our Radical Journey Interns in South Africa, wrote: *"Another thing that my time in South Africa did was remind me about my passion to serve the Church. Working with the youth ministry really served as a confirmation for me that I want to serve in ministry. One time, I was asked to share about Servant Leadership, I thought it went ok, but I wasn't sure that I really connected with the youth. Months later I was talking to another youth leader, and he told me that*

*he had thought at the time that I would make a good pastor one day because of the way that I connected with the youth. Because of my passion to serve, I am now studying Religious Studies at Tyndale University College in Toronto, and am considering transferring to Canadian Mennonite University in the Fall."*



Rudy Dirks

- Raquel Contreras, President of Union of Evangelical Baptist Churches of Chile: Mennonite Church Canada's multiple church relationships in Chile facilitated connections and collaboration with MCC in providing needed earthquake response to the affected areas. Raquel Contreras writes that a lot was "done to recover after the Earthquake that came over Chile a little over a year ago. Much of that was done because of your help. We were able to buy temporary shelters for many, we were able to buy food and medicines to many more people that we could dream of, we were able to rebuild homes and churches, it was a time of rejoicing but also to see that there is much that still need to be done. At the same time, in our assembly, we rejoice that two of us could play an important role in the rescue of the trapped miners in Chile. One was the Baptist pastor who lived in the camp created there among the families of the miners and the other was an engineer and Baptist layman who was second in command at the rescue and was an instrument of God in sending Bibles, Christian Music and the T-shirts with a Christian message that the miners wore in the moment of the rescue."
- A newly formed network among Mennonite/Anabaptist groups in China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau named "Chinese Anabaptist Network" has already invited the Chinese Mennonite congregations in North America to join in sharing updates and prayer requests on a regular basis. It is anticipated that a wider church connection among ethnic Chinese Mennonite congregations and Christians on both sides of the Pacific ocean will be further developed and strengthened. At the moment, an electronic update is being sent out by the network co-ordinator, George Veith – Mennonite Church Canada worker in Macau.
- Over 200 Mennonites were registered as volunteers when the Truth and Reconciliation Commission national event was held in Winnipeg in June 2010. The TRC staff were impressed! And many more Mennonite people took the opportunity to attend the event at The Forks and hear the stories of survivors and "survivors of survivors." When one of the survivors was asked how he could be a Christian after the abuse he suffered in the residential school,

## Christian Witness Council cont.

he answered, "I am a follower of Jesus. He did not abuse or mistreat me. It was people that did that to me." MCBC and MC Sask leaders are raising awareness of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission national events in their respective provinces. The people in those area churches have begun a serious, but exciting, journey of learning and listening. Each area church is working at this differently for their context, but cross-cultural relationships and bridges are being built in good ways!

The Face of Witness has changed significantly in the past year, and more changes are underway. At the beginning of 2010 the Congregational Partnerships department was a part of Witness. Following the delegate approval in July 2010 to begin the Church Engagement Council, Congregational Partnerships staff joined with Resource Development and Communications staff to form Church Engagement. Witness staff had a very meaningful time of celebrating gifts, release and blessing around a campfire as Eric Olfert, Rebecca Yoder Neufeld and Norm Dyck left Witness and joined Church Engagement. We had a special time of prayer and commissioning for Norm as he was becoming the Executive Secretary of this new department. Since then Rebecca completed her work with Mennonite Church Canada. Jennifer Rempel also ended her time as Executive Assistant, and we welcomed Val Pankratz into this role. Neill and Edith von Gunten announced their intention to retire in spring 2011, and we reluctantly granted them permission to move into this life stage!

## In conclusion

Leading Mennonite Church Canada Witness has been an honour, privilege, challenge, inspiration, delight, and humbling experience. To work with such a great cloud of witnesses - those who have gone before me, those on staff, and the workers and partners around the world - has allowed me a glimpse of God's vision for the world that has compelled me to believe in God's redeeming plan for the world, to hope when the world seems to be in tatters, and to aspire to be worthy of the calling to which we are called. I can imagine no

better place to live out my vocation, than within Mennonite Church Canada. But at this time, that no longer is viable. I pray for the church, for its leaders, and for us all, that we will have courage to do what is right, grace to act with humility, and strength to face each day in the peace of the Lord Jesus. And I ask your prayers for me, as I enter this unanticipated time of Sabbath, that I may hear God's voice and sense God's leading as I discern where next and best to be a faithful follower of Jesus. Shalom, my brothers and sisters, shalom.

## Council Members:

Rudy Dirks (Chair), Lynell Bergen, Irene Crosland, Emily Dueck, Pat Gerber-Pauls, Bock Ki Kim, Hugo Neufeld, Waldo Neufeld, JD Penner, James Watson.

## Staff During 2010

Janet Plenert (Executive Secretary), Jennifer Rempel/Val Pankratz (Executive Assistant), Tim Froese (Executive Director, International Ministries and Latin America Facilitator), Ingrid Miller (Administrative Assistant), Gordon Janzen (Middle East and Asia Facilitator), Hippolyto Tshimanga (Africa and Europe Facilitator), Neill and Edith von Gunten (co-directors for Native Ministry), Samson Lo (Director of Multi-Cultural Ministries)

Janet Plenert  
Executive Secretary  
Mennonite Church Canada Witness

# Mennonite Women Canada Report

The Mennonite Women Canada (MW Canada) 7 member Executive includes Liz Koop, President-Elect, Ontario, Lois Mierau, Secretary-Treasurer, Saskatchewan, regional leaders, Evelyn Buhr, Alberta, Ruby Harder, Saskatchewan, Patty Ollies, Ontario, Waltrude Gortzen, British Columbia, and myself, Erna Neufeldt, Ontario, President.

There are approximately 150 traditional groups meeting regularly. Women continue to study the Bible, care for sick and elderly, make blankets, staff Mennonite Central Committee Thrift and 10,000 Villages stores, provide fellowship meals for communities and congregations, host baby/bridal showers, serve lunch at funerals and many other worthwhile endeavors too numerous to mention.

We know women like to get together, so in addition to the groups mentioned above, Mennonite women across Canada gather for book clubs, quilting, dinner & movie nights, parent & tot, and fellowship breakfasts/lunches.

## Regular activities:

### 1. Bible Study Guide (BSG)

We share in the production of an annual BSG with our sisters in the USA. Terri Brenneman, USA, has written the BSG for 2011 "Wonderfully made: Women, Faith and Self-Care." Members of the Bible Study Editorial Committee from Canada are Kris Culp, Kitchener, ON, Patty Friesen, Saskatoon, SK, and the President of MW Canada.

### 2. Communication

- **Canadian Mennonite** – Six times a year one full page is available to us for telling our stories and news.
- **Web site** [www.mennonitechurch.ca/mwc/](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/mwc/). We are working at keeping information current and making the site an interesting place for women to go to for resources, news, events, visual artists, stories of women past and present.
- **Blog spot** [www.mennowomencanada.blogspot.com](http://www.mennowomencanada.blogspot.com). This is a relatively new venture and we continue to look for meaningful ways of connecting to women through this medium. On average, 43 people a week visit the blog.
- **Newsletter** – One in spring and one in fall. The Newsletter is distributed through Mennonite Church Canada's Equipping Package in order for it to be available to more women. Mennonite Church BC and Mennonite Church Manitoba send this Newsletter out electronically to the congregations in their provinces.
- An **Annual mailing** to the active Women in Mission groups in MB and BC.



Photo order: L to R Erna Neufeldt, Ruby Harder, Lois Mierau, Waltrude Gortzen, Liz Koop, Evelyn Buhr, Kathryn Good. Note that Kathryn Good filled in for Patty Ollies.

### 3. Projects

Presently we are supporting:

- **Radical Journey**, a ministry of Mennonite Church Canada and MC USA for young adults.
- **The Samuelito Day Care Centre** in Santa Cruz, Boliva.

### 4. New Initiatives

- A **Communications Committee** has been established. The first meeting was in January 2011. Members are Liz Koop, Barb Draper, ON, Naomi Unger, SK, Waltrude Gortzen, BC and myself. The purpose of this Committee is to assist in distributing information and stories from MW Canada and local/provincial areas.
- At Assembly 2011, MW Canada and Mennonite Men are jointly sponsoring a workshop on **Challenging Gender Stereotypes**.
- We are looking forward to an event at the Youth Assembly 2011. The **Youth Planning Committee** is proposing an evening of Dutch Blitz for all women and teen-age girls.
- With the help of Dan Dyck and Megan Kamei, Mennonite Church Canada staff, we are developing a **brochure** for MW Canada to be available in July 2011.

**"As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."**

### 1 Peter 4:10

Respectfully submitted by  
Erna Neufeldt, President  
Mennonite Women Canada  
March 8, 2011

## Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT)

The people of Las Pavas, Colombia lived in a sustainable farming community, peacefully growing food for their families. Paramilitary violence has forced the families to leave the land several times but each time they returned. In 2006, the community was in the process of claiming its land rights under Colombian law, when a consortium bought the land before the process was complete and one hundred twenty three families were forcefully evicted from their farms on July 14, 2009. Their homes were destroyed.

Since then, work has continued to cut the forests, drain wetlands and level the land, in order to plant palm oil trees. Christian Peacemaker Teams, active in the region and involved with the Las Pavas community, have interceded on a number of levels. They have organized community leader visits to seven embassies in Bogota, led a nonviolent resistance workshop for the community, made contacts with churches in Colombia to create connections for the community, have requested signatures on a letter to support the community's right to the land based on international law, attended meetings with national and international organizations about the situation in Colombia and Las Pavas, accompanied community leaders who were threatened by a group of unknown armed men, and sent out news releases. The families of Las Pavas are still engaged in the struggle to return to their land. This is just one of the many issues of injustice with which CPT members are involved.

The Palestine projects in Hebron and At Tuwani continue to collaborate with Palestinian partners, international and Israeli supportive organizations and individuals, for grassroots resistance to the Israeli Occupation and unjust structures, with a goal of creating space for justice and peace. Activities include regular escorts for school children, patrols, monitoring check points, accompaniment of Palestinian shepherds and farmers, documenting violations of basic human rights, acts of violence, writing reflections and articles, engaging in actions, doing advocacy work, providing presentations for community groups and organizations, and supporting the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement.

The Kurdistan region of Iraq has become increasingly unsettled with mass demonstrations taking place in Suleimaniya where the CPT members are located, with a constant risk of killings and injuries. The team has been asked to support peaceful interventions, to show an international presence to the KRG authorities and to report on events, since no other foreign media have been present. (Kathy Thiessen of Hope Mennonite Church, Winnipeg, and wife to Vic Thiessen, Chief Operating Officer at Mennonite Church Canada, participated on this team in spring, 2011. – Ed.)



CPT supporter Keilin Stacey (Toronto) and full time CPT'er Julian Gutierrez (Colombia) participate in a public witness in Ottawa in solidarity with the Barriere Lake First Nations.

The Aboriginal Justice Team has developed a strategic plan for undoing colonialism and supporting indigenous communities seeking justice and defending their lands against corporate and government exploitation without community consent. This has encompassed numerous learning and solidarity events with Aboriginal communities from Quebec, throughout Ontario, and opportunities for speaking engagements.

A common theme extending throughout the programs and operations of Christian Peacemaker Teams is one of Mission and Presentation Re-visioning (MAPR), in relationship to CPT's Undoing Racism Strategic Directions. This is an ongoing process of discernment in maintaining a strong faith identity, but having membership policies which are inclusive, as we continue to engage in radical Gospel peacemaking.

A key achievement has been the signing of the Joint Ministry Agreement with Mennonite Church Canada, which establishes Christian Peacemaker Teams Canada as a co-funded ministry of Mennonite Church Canada and CPT Inc. Due to recent changes in Canadian tax policy, independent charitable status may now be possible for CPT, and we may consider an application.

In the challenges we encounter in a depressed economic environment, with decreasing donations, and the struggle to exercise wise stewardship over our resources, we are ever grateful for the prayers and financial support from our Mennonite brothers and sisters. Thank you for your faithfulness!

Respectfully submitted  
Esther Kern  
Administrative Coordinator, CPT Canada

A letter writer in the *Canadian Mennonite*, commenting on MCC's restructuring, gently reminded us that "the helper and the helped are connected in a way that is only defined by God, not an organization."

This is a humbling truth and offers a measure of comfort as MCC continues to move in a complex and changing world. It is a reminder that we can worry a bit less but also signals the importance of connecting with each other, wherever we may be. MCC takes this reader's comment seriously and strives to accompany partners and the church in a respectful way where wisdom, knowledge and resources are shared.

MCC enables people to connect and together become transformed. Its young adult programs are wonderful examples of this. Take Ying Wang of China, who served in Oregon as a participant in MCC's one-year International Volunteer Exchange Program (IVEP) in 2005-2006. In the course of that year, her concept of service was radically changed.

Wang returned to China and went on to found an organization called Peace in China. She became one of the initiators of the Northeast Asia Peace Camp for young people, which was held for the first time in 2010 in China. The 30 high school students who participated in the camp addressed stereotypes and historical tensions between their three home countries of South Korea, Japan and China.

We are deeply grateful for people's prayers and support as MCC seeks to share God's love and compassion for all in the name of Christ

## Of note

- MCC continues to challenge the current federal government's focus on mandatory and longer sentencing rather than restorative justice. Rooted in the Gospel, restorative justice puts the emphasis on the wrong done to a person as well as on the wrong done to the community.
- An MCC worker was killed while on assignment in Afghanistan in August 2010. Glen Lapp, 40, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, was a member of a team that provided eye care and medical treatment in Afghanistan. The team was returning from a journey to hold an eye camp in a rural area when they were killed by gunmen. His murder is a poignant reminder that Christ's call to serve others may, at times, result in death.



Volunteers Manon Desjardins and Lucy Beauchemin hand knot quilts at the Quebec material resources centre workspace at the Église Chrétienne Évangélique de Saint-Eustache.

- The MCCs in Canada have agreed on a new joint strategic plan for the next three years. It will essentially help determine where we're going, how we're going to get there and how we'll know when we're there. The plan will interconnect with MCC strategic planning in other parts of the world.
- Community involvement and volunteers remain the heart of MCC. This past year an estimated total of 16,650 Canadians volunteered in thrift shops, Ten Thousand Villages, material resource centres and relief sales. Eighty-one Canadians served for a year or more with MCC outside Canada and the U.S.
- Mennonite congregations in Canada, through MCC, have helped more than 50,000 refugees resettle in Canada under the private sponsorship program that was started in 1979. This past year, congregations welcomed 45 new families, representing 184 refugees.

So much more could be said. Please contact us if you would like further information about the work of MCC, or visit us at [mcccanada.ca](http://mcccanada.ca).

Respectfully submitted  
Donald Peters  
Executive Director, MCC Canada

## Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS)

It was an EPIC year for MDS in Canada. MDS volunteers assisted disaster survivors in every province except PEI, NS, and QC!

Over 800 Canadian volunteers have served with MDS at a bi-national project in the past year. During the fall of 2010, MDS worked with vulnerable people affected by disaster in Lyles, TN; Pass Christian, Ocean Springs, and Gulfport MS; Marble Falls, TX; New Orleans, Diamond, Cameron, and New Iberia, LA.

Another 500+ pitched in to help neighbours under the MDS banner in their local community throughout the Canadian provinces. These included MDS responses in Maple Creek and Yorkton, SK (flooding); Medicine Hat, AB (flooding); Leamington, ON (tornado), Emerson, Brandon, and Winnipeg, MB (flooding); Bella Coola, Kingcome Inlet, and Duncan, BC (flooding); Burt's Corner, NB (flooding); and Bonavista and Catalina, NL (hurricane Igor flooding).

Over 200 homeowners and families had MDS volunteers assist them through these projects across Canada.

Eight youth groups coming from across Canada participated in the MDS sponsored youth project for Rock Solid Refuge in Shaunavon, SK, building a multi-use facility for teen boys at risk.

A Region V project site was set up in Catalina, NL in March to build 3 new homes for Hurricane Igor survivors.

Carl Dube, a MDS project director writes the following in his weekly project report:

In 1552, Menno Simons wrote the hymn, "We are People of God's Peace". Simon's words explain what most Mennonites believe about being God's people, the church. What does it mean to be MDS volunteers? Where does our work here fit into the definition of being God's church?

As occurs each week, a new cast of people all came together to become a new creation, united by God's love and bound together by our choice to serve during this week. Geographically we represented Iowa, Ontario, Manitoba, Indiana, Pennsylvania, and Michigan. There were farmers, a bee keeper, school teachers, a cashier, and several retired professions represented. The ages of the volunteers spanned one half century. There were those who carried smart phones everywhere to those who drove buggies to get around in their community. You can begin to see there were some significant differences, yet despite those,



there was a common covenant to "faithfully serve with heart's devotion." (quoted from Simon's hymn)

As we met for our Wednesday sharing time, we discussed how our efforts related to our churches back home, wherever those might be. There were a variety of answers, but most related to the theme of God's people coming together and having the confidence to do the work He had prepared for the week. The fact that this physical work expressed God's love in ways that only words cannot was a common theme.

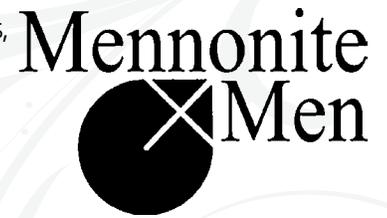
And as MDS "remembered God's future," it also needed to downsize its budget and staff in a post-Katrina/recession era. Four positions were eliminated at MDS bi-national in Lititz, PA and other cost cutting measures

are being explored both at the bi-national level and in Region V (Canada). MDS continues to keep disaster response and recovery as its prime mandate and volunteers continue to sign up despite tougher economic times.

Nick Hamm from Vineland Ontario became the new MDS Region V Director/Board Chair as of February 2011. Ron and Elaine Enns will be missed after serving in this role for the past 4 years.

Submitted by  
Lois Nickel,  
Region V Manager





NEW COORDINATOR NAMED: Don Yoder, Harrisonburg Virginia, has been named Coordinator of Mennonite Men. Yoder began his half-time duties in June 2010, replacing Jim Gingerich, who served in the position for 12 years. The Mennonite Men office is located in the Third Way Media building, Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Our Canadian board members, Samson Lo of Vancouver, Murray Logan of Regina (chaplain\_mur@hotmail.com) and I welcome your thought and offers to help in extending the work and vision of Mennonite Men.

### MENNONITE MEN MISSION AND VISION STATEMENT

**Equipping men to be missional in building Christ's kingdom**

**By encouraging fellowship among all men**

**By offering study resources to build each other into the likeness of Christ**

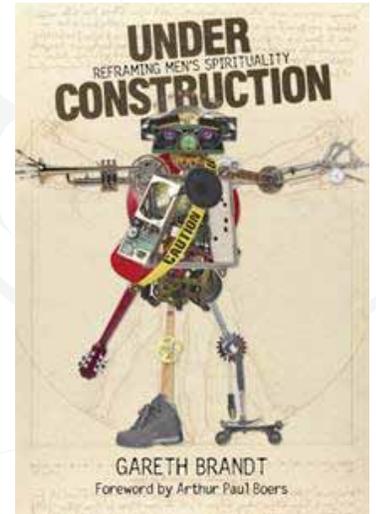
**By giving opportunities to serve in furthering the kingdom of God.**

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 of local leaders willing to help. Use [mm@mennonitemen.org](mailto:mm@mennonitemen.org) or contact your conference resource coordinator for more information.

In 2010, a book on men's spirituality entitled *Under Construction* was released by Herald Press (Mennonite Publishing Network) and made possible through the generous support of Mennonite Men. Gareth Brandt, author, says male spirituality "reaches its height when it shows compassion to all people, beginning with those close to us. It's about being part of building God's commonwealth of love and justice, having the courage to face the wounds of our past and building a marriage, a family, and a career while empowering others to build with us." This book and additional men's study resources can be ordered from [www.mpn.net](http://www.mpn.net).

In addition to supporting men's groups, Mennonite Men enlists individuals and groups willing to commit themselves to contribute \$100 twice annually to support new congregations. Called JoinHands, this service component of Mennonite Men has given more than \$1.7 million to 60 congregations. In the past year two Mennonite Church Canada congregations/ministries have also benefitted from this ministry. The Lao Canadian Evangelical Mennonite Church in Toronto recently purchased a bay in a warehouse and renovated it into a very attractive and homey place of worship for their growing congregation. Mennonite Men has pledged a gift of \$40,000 toward the cost of this facility. The new Mennonite congregation in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso has also recently purchased a property and is beginning to build their first house of worship. Mennonite Men is gratified to be a partner with them and has just given them a tithe grant of \$10,000 toward the cost of their facility.

Marvin Baergen  
Canadian Coordinator,  
JoinHands Program  
[msbaergen@shaw.ca](mailto:msbaergen@shaw.ca)  
(403) 256-2894



## Mennonite Voluntary Service Adventure (MVSA)

Mennonite Voluntary Service Adventure is a Christian Voluntary Service program for young adults, run by Mennonite Church Canada congregations, working together to provide a consistent Christian voluntary service program as part of their community outreach efforts. In 2010 there were three active Units including Lethbridge Mennonite Church, Bethel Mennonite Church in Winnipeg, and Danforth Mennonite Church in Toronto. Montreal Fellowship did not have a volunteer this year. The MVSA program is run in partnership with Mennonite Church Canada.

Mennonite Voluntary Service Adventure has experienced a year of highs and lows. The Danforth Voluntary Service unit in Toronto has struggled with high costs and has decided to close their unit effective September, 2011. We are saddened with this news but can certainly understand the struggles they have faced with high living costs at their location. At the same time, Holyrood Mennonite Church in Edmonton is planning to open a Voluntary Service unit beginning September, 2011. Our committee is guiding them through this process.

All units have experienced a drop in numbers this past year and consequently we have all felt the effects both financially and structurally. We are seeing signs of higher participation this coming year and are hopeful that this will be so. At the time of this writing it is too early to know how many new volunteers we might have. Generally we begin to receive new applicants by the beginning of March for one year assignments which typically begin in summer/early fall and end the following year in summer/early fall. We are hopeful there will be enough volunteers this year to make all the Units viable.

We are fortunate in having good relationships with three organizations in Europe, two in Germany and one in France. They have provided us with excellent participants who are well prepared for their commitment in voluntary service. We have found it difficult to be as thorough with Canadian applicants which we screen ourselves. Local committees meet regularly as they are in charge of placing participants, providing housing, and for the general welfare of the volunteers. The national committee meets by teleconference every three months.

The Canada MVSA Retreat at Camp Valaqua (80 KM northwest of Calgary) is set for the last weekend in May as indicated on our website [www.mvsa.net](http://www.mvsa.net).

We would like to see Mennonite Church Canada assist us more in recruiting. With its Canada wide infrastructure, recruiting on behalf of MVSA could perhaps be done as part of other events where Mennonite Church Canada participates.

Another area where Mennonite Church Canada might be of assistance is in screening potential Canadian and American volunteers. Perhaps the Human Resources department could assist Support committees in setting up screening processes that would help provide healthy expectations for applicants.

We continue to be excited about this outreach program, which provides a great Christian service experience for young adults, provides needed energy and enthusiasm to the organizations where they are placed, and provides a great outreach program for congregations. We invite all young adults (19 to 25) to consider this service opportunity, and other congregations to consider MVSA as part of their community outreach program.

For more information and contact information go to [www.mvsa.net](http://www.mvsa.net).

Submitted by  
Ernie Engbrecht  
and Louie Sawatzky  
MVSA Management Committee

# Church Engagement Council Report

**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 plan resource development activities to provide financial support necessary to fulfill Mennonite Church Canada's vision.

In reviewing this first year of Church Engagement, we respond with gratitude and thanks to God for God's guidance and presence with us. This has been a year of significant transition. With delegate approval at Assembly in Calgary, July 2010, we moved into a new structure with Church Engagement becoming the third ministry "circle" of Mennonite Church Canada (see the organization chart elsewhere in this Report Book). This change absorbed some activities from Witness and the former Support Services circle into the Church Engagement, and internally assigned some activities of the former Support Services ministry circle to other internal staff.

These have been exciting, challenging, exhausting, and exhilarating months of transition. At the conclusion of our introduction to Church Engagement at the Assembly in Calgary, I left the delegates with this promise:

*While we cannot promise to be all things to all people or all congregations, even though I am blessed to be able to work with an incredibly dedicated staff at Mennonite Church Canada, our human and program resources are limited. Even so, as Church Engagement, we will endeavour to embrace, confront, inform, inspire, involve, invite, interact, increase, improve, initiate, interpret, innovate, integrate, and ignite your passion and vision for what the church is and will become.*

Much work has already been done to give shape to Church Engagement and there is still much to be done. Unfortunately, we have remained significantly understaffed in the past year as financial strains have delayed hiring processes. At the time of writing, we are anticipating further transition in the Executive Staff role in Church Engagement, pending decisions not yet made at the time of this writing.

As we move into the future, we are humbled and encouraged by the support we have received for this initiative from the congregations and individuals which make up our national church. With God's grace, we pray that our efforts will serve to challenge our church to growth as we embrace God's marvellous vision for the future.

## Partnership Development

The mandate of the Partnership Development staff is to engage in missional formation, the development of healthy, transformative congregational partnerships, congregational and individual donor cultivation, general constituency awareness, education and communication building, general fundraising, and inviting prayer support. This is both an exciting and a daunting task.



Norm Dyck

Although Church Engagement was understaffed in 2010, there remains significant partnership momentum among our congregations. At present there are 90 active congregational partnerships with Witness workers, sister congregations or other International Ministry partners. Since Assembly 2010 in Calgary, Partnership Development staff have made numerous visits to congregations and individuals. These visits included sermons, visits with congregational leadership, donor thank you visits, presentations to various committees, and a variety of other opportunities to both hear from the congregations of Mennonite Church Canada and invite ongoing partnership in the ministries we have been called to together. While we have not been able to visit you as much as we had hoped, we express our appreciation for your ongoing partnership, generosity and support. The work of the church is dependent on the continued partnership and financial support of congregations and individuals who believe in working together to build God's kingdom. Thank you all for your participation.

**Mennonite Church Canada Communication's** mission is to inform, inspire, invite, and involve all parts of the church in God's mission and Christ's ministry of healing and hope.

Here are just a few ways that your dedicated Communications staff, under the direction of Dan Dyck, has worked to fulfill this mission in the past year:

- The four-year Live for Peace initiative launched in November 2009 continues to attract interest from congregations and area churches. Mennonite Church Saskatchewan completed a bus advertising campaign in the fall of 2010, and is embarking on a campaign to have their congregations

## Church Engagement Council Report cont.

- each identify themselves as a “Live for Peace Church” for which we have designed banners. Mennonite Church British Columbia used the peace theme for its annual LEAD conference on Feb.25 prior to its Annual General Meeting, and requested Mennonite Church Canada staff input into a panel discussion on peace.
- 105 news stories released in 2010; Approx. 50% of these stories have appeared in *Canadian Mennonite*, which reaches 15,000 households.
  - A mini Witness worker update booklet was designed to provide more current information on existing and new Witness workers in existing and new international locations.
  - A Christmas video greeting from Willard Metzger, General Secretary, was produced and a YouTube link distributed to all congregations. As of this writing, it had been viewed over 500 times.
  - A fall/Christmas gift guide was designed, manufactured, and distributed. As of mid April response to this appeal has resulted in \$19,053 in support of Mennonite Church Canada ministries.
  - A recruitment strategy for International Ministry has been developed with Witness. The “Adventurers Wanted” poster is the first phase and included bulletin announcements and notices on the Mennonite Church Canada Facebook group.
  - We have worked in partnership with Mennonite Women Canada to design a new brochure for them.
  - We ran a Live for Peace contest with prize winners each receiving an attractive Live for Peace poster. These posters were distributed more widely to each congregation in the Nov/Dec edition of *Equipping*.
  - The Mennonite Church Canada phone directory has been completed and distributed. This will be the last hard copy version of this directory.
  - An in-house designed scent-sensitive poster raising awareness to care for people who suffer from allergies in public spaces has received positive reviews and was requested for re-use by CMU and a congregation. On request, the artwork was distributed to all congregations in the March 2011 edition of *Equipping*.
  - We have developed two logos: The Anabaptist Network in South Africa (International Ministry – Witness); the Anabaptist Resource Consortium (Mennonite Church Canada Resource Centre - Formation).
  - The considerable project related tasks of planning for and preparing for two assemblies this year (youth and adult).
- The *Advent at Home* and *Season of Prayer* materials were designed and distributed.
  - Editing, design, production, and distribution of a Lutheran-Mennonite Study Guide.
  - We continue to produce our monthly radio program, *Church Matters*, available via the Mennonite Church Canada Resource Centre online and iTunes, as a free podcast.
  - We have improved the flexibility of our “Give” page and made a shift away from CanadaHelps.org to PayPal. This allows donors a more user friendly interface and allows for designated giving. We hope to implement a gift/shopping cart system in the future that will provide donors with a more user friendly and flexible donation experience.
  - Plans for the third major update to our main website continue to develop.

We are grateful to the pastors and administrators in our congregations for helping us ensure that the information, prayer requests, bulletin announcements, posters, and more find an audience with the people in your pews. Without your help, reaching congregations would be considerably more challenging.

### A few stats

- Since Mennonite Church Canada launched its You Tube page in December 2007, 41 Mennonite Church Canada You Tube videos have had a combined total of 21,948 views.

### Our website stats (averages)

from Jan. 1, 2010 to Dec. 1, 2010:

- Mennonite Church Canada  
16,500 unique visitors/month, viewing 17 pages each
- Church Pandemic Resources  
315 unique visitors/month, viewing 13 pages each
- Live for Peace.  
404 unique visitors/month, viewing 19 pages each

(web site activity increased by 45%, as measured by hits, when Mennonite Church Saskatchewan ran its Live for peace bus board campaign from Sept- Nov. 2010, as compared to the previous 9 months)

- Alternative Service  
742 unique visitors/month, viewing 8 pages each
- Church Matters Podcast  
11,272 downloads in 2010

### Staff

In support of ongoing professional development, Dan Dyck, Director of Communications, participated in a three month professional development leave in the fall of 2010. During this time, Dan worked

toward certification as an Accredited Business Communicator with his professional association, the International Association of Business Communicators. Special thanks to Deborah Frose, Director of News Services, who filled in for Dan during his absence.

## Church Engagement Council Members

Emily Toews, Drake, SK  
Bud Kehler, Winkler, MB  
Louie Sawatzky, Winnipeg, MB  
Dori Zerbe Cornelsen, Winnipeg, MB  
Bryan Moyer Suderman, Stouffville, ON  
Kaye Rempel, Waterloo, ON

**NOTE:** The Church Engagement Council continues to seek a chairperson. Please contact the Nominating Committee or the Mennonite Church Canada offices if you are interested in serving in this capacity.

Church Engagement Council also appoints representatives to:

## Mennonite Foundation of Canada

Karin Krahn, Calgary, AB  
Abe Fehr, Leamington, ON

## Canadian Mennonite Publishing Services

which publishes the *Canadian Mennonite*.

Ed Janzen, Abbotsford, BC  
Joon Hyoung Park, Vancouver, BC  
Les Klassen Hamm, Saskatoon, SK  
Doreen Martens, Oakville, ON

Norm Dyck,  
Executive Secretary,  
Church Engagement Council

## Greetings from Mennonite Foundation of Canada to Mennonite Church Canada

In 2010, MFC distributed more than \$10.2 million to 675 charities, a new record. Of this total, MFC forwarded over \$164,000 to Mennonite Church Canada.

Nearly all of these gifts were given at the discretion of donors who used MFC services. It is both a privilege and a blessing to work with people who are committed to share so selflessly.

Our main new stewardship education effort for 2010 was updating and expanding our First Things First financial literacy study and workbook. This is an excellent resource for young people leaving home for the first time, newly married couples, or anyone who is looking to get a handle on their finances. Encourage your pastor to use this resource in baptismal and pre-marriage classes. We would be happy to send you a free copy or send several copies to your church.

Some people may be unaware of the financial assistance MFC provides to people who make or update their wills. Ask us for details of MFC's will rebate program. We are also eager to ensure that leaders are aware of the stewardship education resources that MFC provides for churches, including grants for projects related to financial stewardship. MFC consultants also provide counseling in the areas of charitable gift and estate planning, and assist people in implementing their charitable plans.

In May, 2010, Donald Brooker joined the MFC team, working out of the Niagara office, serving areas of Ontario previously covered by Darren Pries-Klassen. If MFC has not been to your church in the past year or two, feel free to invite us.

Our website has received a complete overhaul. Go to

## Mennonite Foundation of Canada

[www.mennofoundation.ca](http://www.mennofoundation.ca) to listen to the stories people have shared with us, find the stewardship resources you need or simply find the number to call a stewardship consultant near you. We'd love to hear your questions and help you in any way we can.



Throughout 2010 Mennonite Foundation of Canada used "Imagine" as its theme, based on Ephesians 3: 20, "Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine." When God's Holy Spirit takes hold of someone there is no telling what greatness can happen. A generous act is something anyone can do but a truly generous character means that we have allowed God to dwell within us so much that we are willing to live our lives in service and obedience to God using all the resources and talents God has entrusted to us.

We are grateful to Mennonite Church Canada for the relationship we have with you. You welcome us to preach and teach in your churches, meet with members and adherents of those churches, and facilitate gifts on behalf of the church and related agencies. Thank you! This is an affirmation of our work together.

May God's power within us accomplish far more than we could ever imagine.

Darren Pries-Klassen  
Executive Director

Mike Strathdee, Sherri Grosz, and Donald Brooker – Ontario  
Dori Zerbe Cornelsen – Manitoba and Saskatchewan  
Gary Sawatzky and Kevin Davidson – Alberta  
Arnie Friesen – British Columbia

# Canadian Mennonite

Activity/Program: Publishing a national magazine primarily for those attending Mennonite Church Canada churches

## Mission Statement:

*Canadian Mennonite* is a bi-weekly Anabaptist/ Mennonite 41-year-old periodical which seeks to promote covenantal relationships within the church (guided by Hebrews 10:23-25, which calls on us to be concerned for one another, encourage each other and help one another do good). It provides channels for sharing accurate and fair information, faith profiles, inspirational/educational materials, news and analysis of issues facing the church.

## 2010 Expenses:

\$650,055 (net income was \$161,399 from Mennonite Church Canada, \$131,552 from the five area churches and \$367,682 raised by the magazine through other means)

## Reporting to:

Canadian Mennonite Publishing Service Board, a 12-member board that includes four Mennonite Church Canada-appointed board members: Ed Janzen and Joon Hyoung Park from British Columbia, Les Klassen Hamm, Saskatchewan and Doreen Martens, Ontario. The board chair is Tobi Thiessen, Toronto, Ont.

## Dear Mennonite Church Canada delegates:

In looking into the rear view mirror of *Canadian Mennonite* during 2010, I hope I am not engaging in a bit of sacrilege when paraphrasing two biblical writers with the name of John—one the Revelator who asks the new congregations of the First Century to “hear what the Spirit has to say to the churches” (Rev. 2:7) and the other, the gospel writer, John, who announced that “the Word became flesh and lived among us.” (Jn. 1:14). Forgive my chutzpah, but that is what we attempted to do with our 30,000 readers as we reported the news of many of our 225 congregations and printed thought pieces that hopefully challenged all of us on our various journeys of faith.

Our stories contained many nudgings of the Spirit when we gave generously to the victims of earthquake-ravaged Haiti early in the year, when we saw opportunities to call for peace in the public square, when we placed in the hands of Sunny and Hun Lee a peace lamp as they returned to Korea to nurture new congregations in that country after serving here for 13 years.



We said our farewells to faithful servants representing the “Word” among us—persons like Peter Dyck, who at his death at age 95 had carved out a special place in many of our hearts with his help in relocating Mennonite Russian refugees through Mennonite Central Committee. We gave our blessing to Robert J. Suderman, our outgoing denominational General Secretary who with his gifts of teaching and church statesmanship

moved us to a more unified body with renewed Anabaptist vision, as we welcomed his successor, Willard Metzger, a younger, energetic visionary with wide inter-denominational experience.

These are only a few examples of “spirit” and “Word” alive and well in our congregations. Looking back over the letters, it is obvious that Canadian Mennonites continue to struggle with self-identity, with what kind of music to use in worship, with a call for deeper spirituality, including a new understanding of other major faiths. This past year, Mennonite Church Canada households had the chance to read again about 1,140 articles in *Canadian Mennonite* about these issues and the many activities of our congregations and mission, service and educational institutions.

Each issue of *Canadian Mennonite* is full of stories, news, letters and thought content. *Canadian Mennonite* is a way all for of us, through our Every Home subscription plan, to experience God with us. Our redesigned website keeps you current with news from the national and international religious front. Thank you again for the church’s financial support that allows us to provide church subscriptions to every home at much below cost.

Dick Benner,  
Editor/Publisher

## Treasurer's Report

As I look back on my 4 years as Treasurer for Mennonite Church Canada, I see how things are always changing and the church is always in transition.

Some of us handle change better than others, whether in their work life, their home life, or their church life. But the reality is, things are always changing. When times are good, money keeps coming; when times are not so good, money keeps coming, but perhaps not the in same amounts.

Nonetheless, the work of the church keeps going. As Mennonite Church Canada looks for ways to continue the work of the church, with fewer resources, changes are inevitable. Some of these changes will be more difficult than others.

I wonder how many more changes we will see. With the retirement of Robert J. Suderman, a new General Secretary was appointed and Willard Metzger stepped into the role. Big change! It couldn't be any other way.

And yet, what is happening in your local congregation? Pastors come and go, people move in and out, death and birth always make up part of your annual reviews. But, I'm sure that any Sunday of the year, I can walk into your church and hear people singing, praying, praising and worshipping God.

At the core of it, some things don't change. We may do things differently than a few years ago, or many years ago, in how we sing, pray or worship, but we continue going to church and live in community with God's people. God is always with us to guide us through these changes. The financial circumstances Mennonite Church Canada finds itself in currently are also within God's purview. We look to God for guidance and fully expect to hear God's voice in many ways, and especially through you, our members.



Gordon Peters

Please pass on to leadership the guidance you are receiving via the Holy Spirit, and we will all get through to the next stage. God Bless.

Gordon Peters  
Treasurer

## Chief Financial Officer Report

Financial Policy & Audit Committee (FPAC)

### Financial Matters

#### — Report on the fiscal year ending 2011

On the following pages you will find the audited financial statements for the period dated February 1, 2010 to January 31, 2011.

Mennonite Church Canada is pleased to report to you on the completion of another year; a year that saw a transition in the General Secretary's position, and a year overshadowed by a continued downward trend in donation revenue. Our Church weathered the storm of the economic downturn fairly well, but the harsh reality is such that since fiscal-year-end 2008 the year before the economic downturn, donation revenue for core program has decreased by just under \$350,000.

Donation numbers were tracking below budget since the beginning of the fiscal year 2010-11. Both Congregational giving and Individual/Corporate support fell during the year. On the congregational side, the drop was small, just under \$30,000, and was broadly spread across Canada. Individual/corporate giving fell by almost \$165,000.

When looking at the Financial Statements, there are few significant changes to report. New Generally Accepted Accounting

Principles (GAAP) requirements have added minor additional note disclosure. Organizational changes approved at the 2010 Assembly in Calgary saw the elimination of the Support Services Council, and the creation of the Church Engagement Council and the Operations department. These changes are reflected in the statements presented to you.

On the Statement of Financial Position, I would like to highlight the cash line. As

you might have noticed, our cash position has weakened. This decrease is partially due to the reduction in donation revenue, but more importantly due to the increase in accounts receivables, namely the year-end receivable of donation and other income that arrived after year-end.

The Statement of Operations continues to reflect the three categories within the General Fund:



Randy Wiebe

## Chief Financial Officer Report

Core Mennonite Church Canada program including the Witness, Formation, and Church Engagement Council and General Board: Overall, you can see that the total expenditures in this program area have decreased. The only program lines that are showing an increase are the Church Engagement Council, due to additional start-up and communication costs, and General Board, namely the annual assembly held in Calgary was more costly compared to the year before. Since Mennonite Church Canada's capacity for ministry is directly driven by the support received, programs must be continually adjusted in accordance with revenue, to which I will say more when discussing the budget.

**Partner Programs:** This part of the program allows us to do some of the things that general donations do not cover. Mennonite Church Canada works in partnership with individuals, corporations and congregations to facilitate these ministries. You may notice a decrease in this area as well, which is due to a variety of different projects running at less than the previous year's levels.

**Contributions to Related Organizations:** Mennonite Church Canada also works in partnership with other charitable organizations here in Canada and abroad. Support for these ministries has increased compared to a year ago, with the largest increase impacting the support for the Meserete 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 declined by \$193,454 compared to last year and just under \$350,000 from fiscal-year-end 2008. Although this was not the result we were hoping for, we would like to thank all the congregations, individuals and corporations that support Mennonite Church Canada. Some decided to maintain or even increase their support for the ministries we do together. Thank you. Your contributions are fundamental in the life of the church. We are blessed by some very generous donors who play a significant role in helping Mennonite Church Canada ministries change lives for a lifetime.

I invite all congregations, individuals and corporations to consider increasing support. While there are many good charities worthy of support, as the church, we work together to grow and shape faithful disciples that will serve the church as well as supply our many charities with faithful workers, into the future.

Moving on to the expense side, some readers may wonder how Mennonite Church Canada was able to balance its budget, after experiencing such a significant donation revenue shortfall. The short answer is fewer programs. The newly formed Church Engagement Council was significantly under staffed along with several staff vacancies among international ministry worker positions. This along with cautious spending throughout the year allowed Mennonite Church Canada to end the year with an operating surplus before

budgeted transfers to and from reserves. However, by meeting our budget in this way, this also meant that there was less capacity for the ministry that God has called us to do.

### Looking Ahead: Budget for the fiscal year ending 2012

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. This policy was over-ridden by the General Board to encourage increased donor support in 2012. Each year, even though Mennonite Church Canada manages its financial situation well, when donations drop, our capacity for future ministry also decreases.

The structural changes referenced above and approved last year have been implemented, but some vacant positions have not been filled; thus, these changes have yet to bear fruit. The transition in leadership and time spent working on this year's budget reductions and looking ahead to future years' budgets have drawn time and energy away from filling the vacant positions within Church Engagement, resulting in a reduced capacity to build and maintain partnerships with both congregations and individuals.

While we have been able to balance our operations and present to you a stable financial statement for the past year, we were no longer able to do so without removing entire program lines to present a balanced budget into the future.

Two versions of the budget are again presented to you. The "net program budget" has all deferred contributions and other income subtracted from councils' expenditures. This will show you which expenditures are paid for from donation revenue.

### Conclusion

Financially, the results presented in the statements are strong results. We have managed the resources entrusted to us in a careful and prudent manner. Programmatically, Mennonite Church Canada is suffering and our joint ministry is shrinking. A question worth asking is whether this is the Church we want to be.

Wishing you all God's blessings,

Randy Wiebe,  
Chief Financial Officer.

	A	B	C	D
1	<b>Mennonite Church Canada</b>			
2	<b>2011-12 GROSS Program Budget with Comparatives</b>			
3	<b>For the Twelve Months Ending January 31, 2012</b>			
4				
5				
6				
7		<b>FYE Jan-12 GROSS</b>	<b>FYE Jan-11 GROSS</b>	<b>FYE Jan-11 GROSS</b>
8		<b>Annual Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Annual Budget</b>
9				
10	<b>REVENUE</b>			
11	MC Canada Programs			
12	Individual & Corporate Donations	800,786	700,786	865,524
13	Church Donations	2,719,267	2,669,266	2,697,982
14	General Bequest	0	0	0
15	Recognized Deferred Contributions	78,404	92,321	90,206
16	Other Income	716,194	434,437	424,577
17	Partner Programs	728,684	721,825	846,941
18	Related Organizations	462,500	446,817	415,000
19	<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>5,505,835</b>	<b>5,065,452</b>	<b>5,340,230</b>
20	<b>EXPENSES</b>			
21	<b>Christian Witness Council Program</b>			
22	Executive office	141,042	128,833	129,770
23	National ministries administration	6,000	15,151	10,970
24	Multi-cultural ministry	44,632	43,398	42,431
25	Native ministries	100,709	116,206	129,509
26	International ministries	1,618,379	1,483,180	1,515,922
27	<b>Total Witness Council Expenses</b>	<b>1,910,762</b>	<b>1,786,768</b>	<b>1,828,602</b>
28	<b>Christian Formation Council Program</b>			
29	Executive office	178,920	162,808	169,350
30	Resource Centre	98,995	89,923	89,502
31	Ministerial and congregational leadership	91,957	75,900	87,680
32	Youth ministry	27,925	25,267	26,840
33	Youth assembly	158,125	9,278	8,000
34	Education and nurture ministries	55,440	48,113	50,930
35	Canadian Mennonite University grants	305,425	311,381	321,500
36	<b>Total Formation Council Expenses</b>	<b>916,787</b>	<b>722,670</b>	<b>753,802</b>
37	<b>Church Engagement Council Program</b>			
38	Executive office	141,909	163,556	191,183
39	Communications	254,558	211,349	218,971
40	Development	141,402	55,209	113,807
41	Canadian Mennonite	171,215	165,357	177,644
42	<b>Total Church Engagement Council Expenses</b>	<b>709,084</b>	<b>595,471</b>	<b>701,605</b>
43	<b>General Board</b>			
44	Administration	200,333	163,035	164,473
45	Finance	209,554	197,082	200,910
46	Operations	329,737	322,971	340,403
47	Annual assembly	217,633	94,137	81,945
48	Mennonite World Conference grants	38,000	38,000	38,000
49	<b>Total General Board Expenses</b>	<b>995,257</b>	<b>815,225</b>	<b>825,731</b>
50	<b>Partner Programs</b>			
51	Partner Projects/New Initiatives	22,000	4,950	20,000
52	Christian Peacemaker Teams	200,000	154,605	300,000
53	Company of 1000	52,500	33,430	55,747
54	North American Vietnamese Mennonite Fellowship	75,000	49,095	40,000
55	Phillipine Partnership	50,000	74,259	59,321
56	Mennonite Voluntary Service Adventure	11,000	6,211	11,000
57	Kherson Partnership	8,400	8,520	8,400
58	Learning tours	30,000	22,265	29,476
59	Mennonite Women Canada	35,000	24,257	35,000
60	Mennonite Heritage Centre archives	67,867	69,035	69,817
61	Mennonite Heritage Centre gallery	76,917	112,826	113,630
62	Legesse Ethiopia Partnership	0	28,754	17,850
63	IM short-term assignments	100,000	44,172	90,000
64	<b>Total Partner Programs Expenses</b>	<b>728,684</b>	<b>632,379</b>	<b>850,241</b>

Budget Report cont.

65	<b>Related Organizations</b>			
66	Mennonite Mission Network	55,000	78,700	55,000
67	Mennonite Church USA	10,000	11,499	5,000
68	Associated Mennonite Bible Seminary	80,000	77,805	85,000
69	Canadian Mennonite University	90,000	93,568	85,000
70	Mennonite Publishing Network	25,000	23,734	25,000
71	Messeritos Kristos College	200,000	161,511	157,500
72	Eastern Mennonite Missions	2,500	0	2,500
73	<b>Total Related Organization Expenses</b>	<b>462,500</b>	<b>446,817</b>	<b>415,000</b>
74	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>5,723,074</b>	<b>4,999,330</b>	<b>5,374,981</b>
75	<b>Operating Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(217,239)</b>	<b>66,122</b>	<b>(34,751)</b>
76	Transfer To Reserves	(80,170)	(342,462)	(183,441)
77	Transfer from Reserves	318,449	199,956	224,232
78	Transfer To Capital Reserves	(21,040)	(6,040)	(6,040)
79	<b>Net Transfers (to)/from Reserves</b>	<b>217,239</b>	<b>(148,546)</b>	<b>34,751</b>
80	<b>Extraordinary Items &amp; Non-Budget Bequest Income</b>			
81	Extraordinary Income - USA Asset Distrib.	0	82,424	0
82	<b>Total Extraordinary &amp; Unusual Items (Net)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>82,424</b>	<b>0</b>
83	<b>ENDING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
84	<b>Note:</b>			
85	1. This schedule has not been audited.			

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	<b>Mennonite Church Canada</b>					
2	<b>2011-12 GROSS &amp; NET Program Budget with Comparatives</b>					
3	<b>For the Twelve Months Ending January 31, 2012</b>					
4						
5						
6						
7		<b>FYE Jan-12 GROSS</b>	<b>FYE Jan-12 NET</b>	<b>FYE Jan-11 NET</b>	<b>FYE Jan-11. NET</b>	
8		<b>Annual Budget</b>	<b>Annual Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Annual Budget</b>	
9						
10	<b>REVENUE</b>					
11	MC Canada Programs					
12	Individual & Corporate Donations	800,786	800,786	700,786	865,524	
13	Church Donations	2,719,267	2,719,267	2,669,266	2,697,982	
14	General Bequest	0	0	0	0	
15	Recognized Deferred Contributions	78,404	0	0	0	
16	Other Income	716,194	0	0	0	
17	Partner Programs	728,684	728,684	721,825	846,941	
18	Related Organizations	462,500	462,500	446,817	415,000	
19	<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>5,505,835</b>	<b>4,711,237</b>	<b>4,538,694</b>	<b>4,825,447</b>	
20	<b>EXPENSES</b>					
21	<b>Christian Witness Council Program</b>					
22	Executive office	141,042	110,932	94,272	96,315	
23	National ministries administration	6,000	6,000	15,151	10,970	
24	Multi-cultural ministry	44,632	44,632	43,398	42,431	
25	Native ministries	100,709	90,321	105,718	117,121	
26	International ministries	1,618,379	1,403,227	1,231,305	1,299,755	
27	<b>Total Witness Council Expenses</b>	<b>1,910,762</b>	<b>1,655,112</b>	<b>1,489,844</b>	<b>1,566,592</b>	
28	<b>Christian Formation Council Program</b>					
29	Executive office	178,920	173,485	160,305	163,866	
30	Resource Centre	98,995	90,065	81,327	79,276	
31	Ministerial and congregational leadership	91,957	86,957	72,682	82,180	
32	Youth ministry	27,925	27,925	25,267	26,840	
33	Youth assembly	158,125	0	9,278	8,000	
34	Education and nurture ministries	55,440	55,440	48,113	50,930	
35	Canadian Mennonite University grants	305,425	305,425	311,381	321,500	
36	<b>Total Formation Council Expenses</b>	<b>916,787</b>	<b>739,297</b>	<b>708,353</b>	<b>732,592</b>	
37	<b>Church Engagement Council Program</b>					
38	Executive office	141,909	141,909	163,556	191,183	
39	Communications	254,558	254,558	210,283	218,971	
40	Development	141,402	141,402	55,209	113,807	
41	Canadian Mennonite	171,215	171,215	165,357	177,644	
42	<b>Total Church Engagement Council Expenses</b>	<b>709,084</b>	<b>709,084</b>	<b>594,405</b>	<b>701,605</b>	



43	<b>General Board</b>				
44	Administration	200,333	200,333	162,885	156,473
45	Finance	209,554	175,054	150,381	166,410
46	Operations	329,737	244,717	235,000	257,990
47	Annual Assembly	217,633	(24,305)	14,508	(24,705)
48	Mennonite World Conference grants	38,000	38,000	38,000	38,000
49	<b>Total General Board Expenses</b>	<b>995,257</b>	<b>633,799</b>	<b>600,774</b>	<b>594,168</b>
50	<b>Partner Programs</b>				
51	Partner Projects/New Initiatives	22,000	22,000	4,950	20,000
52	Christian Peacemaker Teams	200,000	200,000	154,605	300,000
53	Company of 1000	52,500	52,500	33,430	55,747
54	North American Vietnamese Mennonite Fellowship	75,000	75,000	49,095	40,000
55	Phillipine Partnership	50,000	50,000	74,259	59,321
56	Mennonite Voluntary Service Adventure	11,000	11,000	6,211	11,000
57	Kherson Partnership	8,400	8,400	8,520	8,400
58	Learning tours	30,000	30,000	22,265	29,476
59	Mennonite Women Canada	35,000	35,000	24,257	35,000
60	Mennonite Heritage Centre archives	67,867	67,867	69,035	69,817
61	Mennonite Heritage Centre gallery	76,917	76,917	112,826	113,630
62	Legesse Ethiopia Partnership	0	0	28,754	17,850
63	IM short-term assignments	100,000	100,000	44,172	90,000
64	<b>Total Partner Programs Expenses</b>	<b>728,684</b>	<b>728,684</b>	<b>632,379</b>	<b>850,241</b>
65	<b>Related Organizations</b>				
66	Mennonite Mission Network	55,000	55,000	78,700	55,000
67	Mennonite Church USA	10,000	10,000	11,499	5,000
68	Associated Mennonite Bible Seminary	80,000	80,000	77,805	85,000
69	Canadian Mennonite University	90,000	90,000	93,568	85,000
70	Mennonite Publishing Network	25,000	25,000	23,734	25,000
71	Messeritos Kristos College	200,000	200,000	161,511	157,500
72	Eastern Mennonite Missions	2,500	2,500	0	2,500
73	<b>Total Related Organization Expenses</b>	<b>462,500</b>	<b>462,500</b>	<b>446,817</b>	<b>415,000</b>
74	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>5,723,074</b>	<b>4,928,476</b>	<b>4,472,572</b>	<b>4,860,198</b>
75	<b>Operating Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(217,239)</b>	<b>(217,239)</b>	<b>66,122</b>	<b>(34,751)</b>
76	Transfer To Reserves	(80,170)	(80,170)	(342,461)	(183,441)
77	Transfer from Reserves	318,449	318,449	199,956	224,232
78	Transfer To Capital Reserves	(21,040)	(21,040)	(6,040)	(6,040)
79	<b>Net Transfers (to)/from Reserves</b>	<b>217,239</b>	<b>217,239</b>	<b>(148,545)</b>	<b>34,751</b>
80	<b>Extraordinary Items &amp; Non-Budget Bequest Income</b>				
81	Extraordinary Income - USA Asset Distrib.	0	0	82,423	0
82	<b>Total Extraordinary &amp; Unusual Items (Net)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>82,423</b>	<b>0</b>
83	<b>ENDING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
84	<b>Note:</b>				
85	1. This schedule has not been audited.				
86	2. The columns titled "Net" have deferred contributions and other income deducted from councils' expenditures.				

## Budget Report cont.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	<b>Mennonite Church Canada</b>					
2	<b>General Fund Statement of Operations</b>					
3	<b>February 1, 2011 to January 31, 2012</b>					
4						
5		<b>Gross - Actual</b>	<b>Net - Actual</b>	<b>Net - Budget</b>		<b>Net - Budget</b>
6		<b>2011</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>2012</b>
7	<b>REVENUE</b>					
8						
9	MC Canada Programs					
10	Donations	3,370,052	3,370,052	3,563,506	(193,454)	3,520,053
12	Recognized Deferred Contributions	92,321	0	0	0	0
13	Other Income	434,437	0	0	0	0
14	Partner Programs	721,825	721,825	846,941	0	728,684
15	Related Organizations	446,817	446,817	415,000	0	462,500
16						
17	<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>5,065,452</b>	<b>4,538,694</b>	<b>4,825,447</b>	<b>(193,454)</b>	<b>4,711,237</b>
18						
19	<b>EXPENSES</b>					
20						
21	Christian Witness Council Program	1,786,768	1,489,844	1,566,592	76,748	1,655,112
22	Christian Formation Council Program	411,289	396,972	411,092	14,120	433,872
23	Canadian Mennonite University grants	311,381	311,381	321,500	10,119	305,425
24	Church Engagement Council Program	595,471	594,405	701,605	107,200	709,084
25	General Board	815,225	600,774	594,168	(6,606)	633,799
26	Partner Programs	632,379	632,379	850,241	0	728,684
27	Related Organizations	446,817	446,817	415,000	0	462,500
28						
29	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>4,999,330</b>	<b>4,472,572</b>	<b>4,860,198</b>	<b>201,581</b>	<b>4,928,476</b>
30						
31	Operating Surplus(Deficit)	66,122	66,122	(34,751)	100,873	(217,239)
32						
33	Inter Fund transfers	(148,545)	(148,545)	34,751	(183,296)	217,239
34						
35	Extraordinary income - Asset Distrib.	82,423	82,423	0	82,423	0
36						
37		0	0	0	0	0
38						
39	<b>Note:</b>					
40	1. This schedule has not been audited.					
41	2. The columns titled "Net" have deferred contributions and other income deducted from councils' expenditures.					
42	3. Partner Programs and Related Organizations are not included in the variance calculation.					

Financial Statements of

**MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA**

Year ended January 31, 2011

# MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Audited Financial Statements  
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Year ended January 31, 2011

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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, 2011, 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 generally accepted accounting principles, 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, 2011, and its results of operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

*KPMG LLP*

Chartered Accountants

April 16, 2011

Winnipeg, Canada

# MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

## Statement of Financial Position

January 31, 2011, with comparative figures for 2010

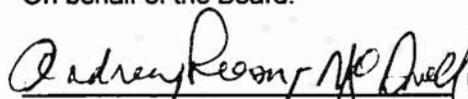
			2011	2010
	General Fund	Capital Fund	Total	Total
<b>Assets</b>				
<b>Current assets:</b>				
Cash	\$ 1,570,038	\$ -	\$ 1,570,038	\$ 1,817,970
Accounts receivable (note 3)	554,255	-	554,255	375,597
Prepaid expenses	77,315	-	77,315	46,722
	2,201,608	-	2,201,608	2,240,289
Inter-fund balance receivable (payable)	(141,318)	141,318	-	-
Investments (note 4)	1,562,528	-	1,562,528	1,654,355
Capital assets (note 5)	-	100,296	100,296	101,888
	\$ 3,622,818	\$ 241,614	\$ 3,864,432	\$ 3,996,532

## Liabilities, Deferred Contributions and Fund Balances

<b>Current liabilities:</b>				
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 401,410	\$ -	\$ 401,410	\$ 517,983
Other loans payable	30,969	-	30,969	31,810
Deferred contributions (note 6)	1,220,473	5,872	1,226,345	1,356,610
<b>Fund balances:</b>				
Invested in capital assets	-	55,221	55,221	48,179
Externally restricted (note 7)	291,719	-	291,719	289,144
Internally restricted (note 8)	1,678,247	180,521	1,858,768	1,752,806
	1,969,966	235,742	2,205,708	2,090,129
Contingent liabilities (note 9)				
	\$ 3,622,818	\$ 241,614	\$ 3,864,432	\$ 3,996,532

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

On behalf of the Board:

 Director

 Director

# MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

## Statement of Operations

Year ended January 31, 2011, with comparative figures for 2010

	General Fund	Capital Fund	2011 Total	2010 Total
<b>Revenues for MC Canada programs:</b>				
Donations and bequests	\$ 3,370,052	\$ —	\$ 3,370,052	\$ 3,563,506
Investment income	110,061	—	110,061	120,762
Sales, services and fees	202,048	—	202,048	280,941
Grants from partner agencies	122,328	—	122,328	171,339
Amortization of deferred contributions (note 6)	82,340	2,595	84,935	83,855
	3,886,829	2,595	3,889,424	4,220,403
<b>Revenues for partner programs:</b>				
Donations and bequests	430,926	—	430,926	536,515
Grants	45,367	—	45,367	49,061
Investment income	8,645	—	8,645	10,050
Sales, services and fees	76,189	—	76,189	61,639
Amortization of deferred contributions (note 6)	170,679	—	170,679	138,775
	731,806	—	731,806	796,040
<b>Revenues for related organizations:</b>				
Donation and bequests	310,862	—	310,862	287,172
Sales, services and fees	95,460	—	95,460	89,065
Grants from partner agencies	40,495	—	40,495	—
	446,817	—	446,817	376,237
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>5,065,452</b>	<b>2,595</b>	<b>5,068,047</b>	<b>5,392,680</b>
<b>Expenses for MC Canada programs:</b>				
Christian Witness Council (schedule A)	1,786,768	—	1,786,768	1,921,353
Christian Formation Council (schedule B)	722,670	—	722,670	787,459
Church Engagement Council (schedule C)	595,471	—	595,471	523,606
General Board (schedule D)	815,225	—	815,225	807,893
	3,920,134	—	3,920,134	4,040,311
Expenses for Partner Programs (schedule E)	632,379	—	632,379	762,631
Contributions to related organizations (schedule F)	446,817	—	446,817	376,237
Amortization of capital assets	—	38,136	38,136	50,149
<b>Total expenses and contributions</b>	<b>4,999,330</b>	<b>38,136</b>	<b>5,037,466</b>	<b>5,229,328</b>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses before the undernoted	66,122	(35,541)	30,581	163,352
Gain on sale of capital assets	—	—	—	267,459
Bi-national asset distribution (note 12)	82,423	—	82,423	—
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses</b>	<b>\$ 148,545</b>	<b>\$ (35,541)</b>	<b>\$ 113,004</b>	<b>\$ 430,811</b>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

# MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

## Statement of Changes in Fund Balances

Year ended January 31, 2011, with comparative figures for 2010

	Invested in capital assets	Externally restricted	Internally restricted	Unrestricted	2011 Total	2010 Total
<b>General Fund:</b>						
Balance, beginning of year	\$ -	\$ 289,144	\$ 1,535,741	\$ -	\$ 1,824,885	\$ 1,438,231
Excess of revenues over expenses	-	-	-	148,545	148,545	190,567
Transfer from Capital Fund (note 8)	-	-	-	-	-	268,459
Transfer to Capital Fund (note 8)	-	-	-	(6,039)	(6,039)	(79,732)
Transfer from internally restricted funds (note 8)	-	-	(199,956)	199,956	-	-
Transfer to internally restricted funds (note 8)	-	-	342,462	(342,462)	-	-
Endowment contributions	-	2,575	-	-	2,575	7,360
<b>Balance, end of year</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 291,719</b>	<b>\$ 1,678,247</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,969,966</b>	<b>\$ 1,824,885</b>
<b>Capital Fund:</b>						
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 48,179	\$ -	\$ 217,065	\$ -	\$ 265,244	\$ 213,727
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	(35,541)	-	-	-	(35,541)	240,244
	12,638	-	217,065	-	229,703	453,971
Transfer to General Fund (note 8)	-	-	-	-	-	(268,459)
Transfer from General Fund (note 8)	6,039	-	-	-	6,039	79,732
Transfer from internally restricted funds (note 8)	36,544	-	(36,544)	-	-	-
<b>Balance, end of year</b>	<b>\$ 55,221</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 180,521</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 235,742</b>	<b>\$ 265,244</b>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

# MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

## Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended January 31, 2011, with comparative figures for 2010

	2011	2010
Cash provided by (used in):		
Operations:		
Excess of revenues over expenses	\$ 113,004	\$ 430,811
Adjustments for:		
Amortization of capital assets	38,136	50,149
Amortization of deferred contributions	(2,595)	(22,934)
Gain on sale of capital assets	-	(267,459)
Unrealized loss on investments	1,506	18,203
Change in the following:		
Accounts receivable	(178,658)	(16,835)
Prepaid expenses	(30,593)	27,231
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(116,573)	(153,923)
Change in deferred contributions relating to General Fund	(127,670)	238,032
	(303,443)	303,275
Financing:		
Endowment contributions received	2,575	7,360
Decrease in other loans payable	(841)	142
	1,734	7,502
Investing:		
Proceeds from disposition of capital assets	-	268,459
Additions to capital assets	(36,544)	(17,374)
Decrease (increase) in investments, net	90,321	(297,396)
	53,777	(46,311)
Increase (decrease) in cash	(247,932)	264,466
Cash, beginning of year	1,817,970	1,553,504
Cash, end of year	\$ 1,570,038	\$ 1,817,970
Supplementary cash flow information:		
Interest received	\$ 27,976	\$ 25,257

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

# MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended January 31, 2011

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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:

### (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.

### (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.

# MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2011

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## 2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

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.

### (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) Investments:

Investments are classified as held-for-trading and 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, 2011

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## 2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

### (e) 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. MC Canada made employer contributions for its employees to the plan in the amount of \$105,394 (2010 - \$106,623).

### (f) 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.

### (g) Financial instruments:

Financial assets and liabilities held-for-trading are measured at fair value with gains and losses recognized in net earnings. Financial instruments classified as held-to-maturity, loans and receivables and other liabilities are measured at amortized cost. Available-for-sale financial instruments are measured at fair value, with unrealized gains and losses recognized directly in unrestricted fund balances.

MC Canada designated cash and investments as held-for-trading; accounts receivable as loans and receivables; and accounts payable and accrued liabilities and a portion of other loans payable as other liabilities. MC Canada has neither available-for-sale nor held-to-maturity instruments.

Except for held-for-trading designated financial instruments, transaction costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition or issuance of financial assets or liabilities are accounted for as part of the respective asset or liability's carrying value at inception and amortized over the expected life of the financial instrument using the effective interest method. For held-for-trading financial assets and liabilities, transaction costs are recorded in the statement of operations as incurred the effective interest method.

# MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2011

## 2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

MC Canada has adopted the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants (CICA) Handbook Section 3861, *Financial Instruments - Disclosure and Presentation*. In accordance with the Accounting Standards Board's decision to exempt not-for-profit organizations from the disclosure requirements with respect to financial instruments contained within Section 3862, *Financial Instruments - Disclosures*, and Section 3863, *Financial Instruments - Presentation*, MC Canada has elected not to adopt these standards in the financial statements.

### (h) Use of estimates:

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the year. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

## 3. Accounts receivable:

	2011	2010
Donations receivable	\$ 322,837	\$ 197,942
Other	231,418	177,655
	<u>\$ 554,255</u>	<u>\$ 375,597</u>

## 4. Investments:

	2011	2010
Mennonite Foundation of Canada:		
Annuities	\$ 22,481	\$ 23,322
Church Building Fund Trust	441,545	436,277
Endowments, bequests and other	946,869	1,005,756
Canada Life Insurance Company	144,166	180,104
Crosstown Civic Credit Union surplus shares	7,467	8,896
	<u>\$ 1,562,528</u>	<u>\$ 1,654,355</u>

# MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2011

## 4. Investments (continued):

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.

## 5. Capital assets:

			2011	2010
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net book value	Net book value
Land	\$ 983	\$ –	\$ 983	\$ 983
Buildings:				
Witness field properties	80,767	75,358	5,409	7,857
Heritage Centre	694,774	639,370	55,404	62,066
Conference administration	787,191	787,191	–	1,636
	1,562,732	1,501,919	60,813	71,559
Vehicles, equipment and furnishings	599,298	560,798	38,500	29,346
	\$ 2,163,013	\$ 2,062,717	\$ 100,296	\$ 101,888

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, 2011, no amounts are drawn on the facility.

## 6. 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 earnings 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, 2011 and 2010, no such income was earned based on the policy.

# MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2011

## 6. Deferred contributions (continued):

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

	2011	Investment income	Received and not disbursed	Recognized as revenue	2010
<b>MC Canada programs:</b>					
Witness Council:					
Witness Bequest Fund	\$ 536,593	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (59,621)	\$ 596,214
Native ministries:					
Emergency Support Fund	4,627	-	-	-	4,627
Jeremiah's Dream	2,416	-	-	(719)	3,135
Language training	3,704	-	-	(350)	4,054
Native education	4,301	-	-	(530)	4,831
Colombia leadership development (10 year)	6,000	-	-	(6,000)	12,000
Mexico - Cuauthemoc	7,203	-	-	(1,000)	8,203
Burkina - leadership development	-	-	-	(7,304)	7,304
Church Building Fund (W65)	442,191	-	-	-	442,191
	1,007,035	-	-	(75,524)	1,082,559
Formation Council:					
Formation Bequest Fund	24,941	-	-	(2,771)	27,712
Translation	2,202	-	-	(1,276)	3,478
Leadership training Fund	4,295	-	-	-	4,295
Russian Mennonite research	4,070	-	-	-	4,070
Anabaptist media	7,316	-	-	(914)	8,230
Pastoral Counselling Fund	3,852	-	-	-	3,852
Education Agency	10,979	-	-	(1,855)	12,834
	57,655	-	-	(6,816)	64,471
	1,064,690	-	-	(82,340)	1,147,030
<b>Partner programs:</b>					
Partner Projects	1,203	-	1,203	(6,980)	6,980
Kherson Partnership	6,553	-	6,553	(7,373)	7,373
North American Vietnamese Mennonite	19,100	-	19,100	(20,518)	20,518
Mennonite Voluntary Service Adventure	7,774	-	3,873	(6,209)	10,110
Phillippines Partnership	49,266	-	49,266	(57,382)	57,382
Legesse Ethiopia Partnership	-	-	-	(11,798)	11,798
IM short-term assignments	8,669	-	8,669	(5,476)	5,476
Gallery donations	6,728	-	6,728	(25,285)	25,285
Company of 1000	29,857	-	29,857	(25,868)	25,868
Abram A. Vogt Legacy Fund	26,633	-	100	(3,790)	30,323
	155,783	-	125,349	(170,679)	201,113
	\$ 1,220,473	\$ -	\$ 125,349	\$ (253,019)	\$ 1,348,143

# MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2011

## 6. Deferred contributions (continued):

### (b) Capital Fund:

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

	2011	2010
Beginning balance	\$ 8,467	\$ 31,401
Less amount recognized as revenue in the year	(2,595)	(22,934)
<b>Ending balance</b>	<b>\$ 5,872</b>	<b>\$ 8,467</b>

## 7. External restrictions on General Fund balances:

External restrictions on General Fund balances are as follows:

	2011	2010
<b>General Board Endowments:</b>		
Conference administration building	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
MC Canada general endowment	8,445	8,445
	<u>108,445</u>	<u>108,445</u>
<b>Witness Council Endowments:</b>		
Native Ministries:		
Education endowment	16,753	16,753
General	2,000	2,000
Summer service	1,945	1,945
	<u>20,698</u>	<u>20,698</u>
<b>Formation Council Endowment:</b>		
Company of 1000	137,464	134,889
History archives endowment	25,112	25,112
	<u>162,576</u>	<u>160,001</u>
	<u>\$ 291,719</u>	<u>\$ 289,144</u>

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, 2011

## 8. Internally restricted fund balances:

### (a) General Fund:

	2011	2010
Witness Council:		
Witness start-up	\$ 18,816	\$ 28,816
Witness future projects	8,220	13,322
Missional resources	3,878	3,878
Mission seminar	–	4,690
International Ministries	370,262	252,721
Native Ministries	136,927	155,522
Witness medical	15,371	15,371
	<u>553,474</u>	<u>474,320</u>
Formation Council:		
Formation reserve	4,177	3,177
Youth Assembly	22,479	37,704
Resource Creation	1,377	6,844
	<u>28,033</u>	<u>47,725</u>
Church Engagement Council		
Church Engagement miscellaneous reserve	17,900	–
Operations:		
Major repair reserve	22,442	22,442
General Board:		
General bequests received to be used for program expenditures over a 10 year period	94,478	104,976
General	392,776	461,988
New projects	254,969	200,728
Mennonite World Conference	2,000	–
	<u>744,223</u>	<u>767,692</u>
Partner programs:		
Learning Tour	55,876	31,057
MVSA Partnership reserve	40,495	40,495
Der Bote	17,354	18,184
Gallery	175,479	115,503
Archives	3,400	3,432
Company of 1000	19,571	14,891
	<u>312,175</u>	<u>223,562</u>
	<u>\$ 1,678,247</u>	<u>\$ 1,535,741</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, 2011

## 8. Internally restricted fund balances (continued):

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

- (i) \$199,956 (2010 - \$110,041) from the General Fund's internally restricted funds to the General Fund's unrestricted funds to cover program expenses for the year.
- (ii) \$342,462 (2010 - \$274,568) to the General Fund's internally restricted funds from the General Fund's unrestricted funds to cover future program expenses.
- (iii) Nil (2010 - \$73,692) to the Capital Fund's internally restricted funds and \$6,039 (2010 - \$6,040) to the invested in capital assets from the General Fund's unrestricted funds to cover current and future capital acquisitions.
- (iv) \$36,544 (2010 - \$17,374) from the Capital Fund's internally restricted funds to cover current capital asset acquisitions.
- (v) Nil (2010 - \$214,767) to the General Fund's internally restricted funds from the Capital Fund's internally restricted funds to cover future program expenses.
- (vi) Nil (2010 - \$53,692) to the General Fund's unrestricted funds from the Capital Fund's internally restricted funds to cover future capital expenses.

### (b) Capital Fund:

	2011	2010
General capital	\$ 180,521	\$ 217,065

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

## 9. Contingent liabilities:

MC Canada has signed a guarantee for US\$16,495 of total outstanding international loans of US\$41,238 which have been granted to international churches and agencies through Church Extension Services. Mennonite Mission Network has guaranteed the remaining US\$24,743.

# MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2011

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## 10. Related party transactions:

- (a) The Canadian Mennonite Bible College (CMBC), which was 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.

- (b) Mennonite Publishing Network:

Mennonite Publishing Network (MPN) 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 MPN's board of directors.

- (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 2011, MC Canada was paid \$58,195 (2010 - \$52,890) by GRS for services provided by MC Canada in relation to administering the plan.

## 11. Fair value of financial assets and liabilities:

The fair values of accounts receivable, accounts payable and accrued liabilities and other loans payable approximate their carrying value due to their relative short term to maturity.

# MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2011

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## 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, 2011, Mennonite Church USA disposed of property which had been jointly funded by both organizations for net realized gains of USD\$201,722, of which 40 percent was distributed to MC Canada. The bi-national asset distribution of CDN\$82,423 has been transferred to internally restricted funds at January 31, 2011.

## 13. Comparative figures:

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with the financial statement presentation adopted in the current year.

# MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Expenses for Christian Witness Council Program

Year ended January 31, 2011, with comparative figures for 2010

	2011	2010
Executive office	\$ 128,833	\$ 143,889
National ministries administration	15,151	9,076
Multi-cultural ministry	43,398	42,594
Native ministries	116,206	139,715
International ministries	1,483,180	1,586,079
	<u>\$ 1,786,768</u>	<u>\$ 1,921,353</u>

# MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Expenses for Christian Formation Council Program

Year ended January 31, 2011, with comparative figures for 2010

	2011	2010
Executive office	\$ 162,808	\$ 152,065
Resource Centre	89,923	87,414
Ministerial and congregational leadership	75,900	75,823
Youth ministry	25,267	26,886
Youth assembly	9,278	85,661
Young adult ministry	-	1,832
Education and nurture ministries	48,113	44,757
Canadian Mennonite University grants	311,381	313,021
	<b>\$ 722,670</b>	<b>\$ 787,459</b>

# MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Expenses for Church Engagement Council Program

Year ended January 31, 2011, with comparative figures for 2010

	2011	2010
Executive office	\$ 163,556	\$ 132,909
Communications	211,349	162,250
Development	55,209	54,286
Canadian Mennonite	165,357	174,161
	<b>\$ 595,471</b>	<b>\$ 523,606</b>

# MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Expenses for General Board

Year ended January 31, 2011, with comparative figures for 2010

	2011	2010
Administration	\$ 163,035	\$ 177,206
Finance	201,745	232,665
Foreign exchange gain	(4,663)	(1,571)
Operations	322,971	322,755
Annual assembly	94,137	48,338
Mennonite World Conference grants	38,000	28,500
	<b>\$ 815,225</b>	<b>\$ 807,893</b>

# MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

## Expenses for Partner Programs

Year ended January 31, 2011, with comparative figures for 2010

	2011	2010
Partner Projects/New Initiatives	\$ 4,950	\$ 55,676
Christian Peacemaker Teams	154,605	181,691
Company of 1000	33,430	42,263
North American Vietnamese Mennonite Fellowship	49,095	45,252
Philippine Partnership	74,259	85,689
Mennonite Voluntary Service Adventure	6,211	4,147
Kherson	8,520	8,515
Learning tours	22,265	13,775
Mennonite Women Canada	24,257	26,905
Mennonite Heritage Centre archives	69,035	76,524
Mennonite Heritage Centre gallery	112,826	94,300
Legesse Ethiopia Partnership	28,754	33,974
IM short-term assignments	44,172	93,920
	<b>\$ 632,379</b>	<b>\$ 762,631</b>

# MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

## Contributions to Related Organizations

Year ended January 31, 2011, with comparative figures for 2010

	2011	2010
Mennonite Mission Network	\$ 78,700	\$ 36,970
Mennonite Church USA	11,499	10,915
Associated Mennonite Bible Seminary	77,805	83,318
Canadian Mennonite University	93,568	89,064
Mennonite Publishing Network	23,734	41,460
Meseretes Kristos College	161,511	114,510
	<u>\$ 446,817</u>	<u>\$ 376,237</u>

## ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE (Subject to changes)

TIME	JULY 4/11 Monday	JULY 5/11 Tuesday	JULY 6/11 Wednesday	JULY 7/11 Thursday	JULY 8/11 Friday	
7:00		Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	
8:00						
8:30	Ministers' Conference Registration	Morning Worship	Morning Worship	Morning Worship	Morning Worship	
9:00	Ministers' Conference	Bible Teaching	Bible Teaching	Bible Teaching	Bible Teaching	
9:30		Stories	Stories	Stories	Stories	
10:00		Break	Break	Break	Break	
10:30	Break	Being a Faithful Church 3 Presentation	Discernment	Witness Stories	Formation Stories	
11:00	Ministers' Conference					
11:30		Lunch & Newcomer Lunch	Lunch	Lunch & Joint Hands Lunch	Lunch & Mennonite Women Canada Lunch	
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch					
1:30 - 2:00	Ministers' Conference Assembly Registration	Being a Faithful Church 3 Group Work	Tours  Peace in the Public Polygon Service Opportunities	Discernment	Discernment	
2:00 - 2:30						
2:30	Break	Break		Break	Break	
3:00	Ministers' Conference Assembly Registration	Plenary Response 3:00 - 3:45		Plenary Response	Plenary Response	Plenary Response
3:30						
4:00			Adult/Youth Joint Seminars			
5:00	Supper 5:30 - 7:00	Evening Worship 5:15 - 6:00	Supper in Waterloo Park	Evening Worship	Reflection and Evaluation	
6:00		Supper & AMBS Supper		Supper & CMU Supper	Supper	
6:30						
7:00	Opening Worship	Open Evening	Evening Worship in Waterloo Park	Open Evening	Communion and Closing Worship	
8:00	Discernment Block					
8:30	Closing Blessing				Open Evening	
9:00 - 12:00 am	Evening Activities	Evening Activities	Evening Activities	Evening Activities		