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Where are we? Maturing in our missional church vision



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Mennonite Church Canada is now 12 years old and about to enter the teen years of existence! These early years have been a time of growing into a vision for being a missional church where we recognize that God as creator of the world continues to be at work to restore, reconcile and save the world. And our primary mission as the church is to figure out what God is doing in our “neighbourhood” and how we can join that work!

So how is your congregation doing on this journey with God?

According to the article *Footprints: Indicators of a Missional Church* (www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1813), one of the indicators of maturing growth on the missional journey is that **“the Bible is normative in the church’s life”**.

mmm...so what does that mean? While not exhaustive, I suggest it includes the following:

- Reading the Bible together and pondering the question, “what is God doing?” is becoming a normal practice of every aspect of congregational life whether it is visioning, hospitality, worship, faith formation, administration, committee work, pastoral visits, etc.
- At the same time the church is entering the life of the local community to listen and understand the stories of the individuals and groups within the neighbourhood. As the local congregation grows in bilingual familiarity with the Bible and the local context, these two conversation partners of Bible and context help the congregation to see what God is doing in the neighbourhood.
- This normal practice of listening to God through scripture in conversation with the local context(s) is awakening a God-given imagination that is energizing the church for how to live in the world as a people of faith.
- God is changing the church!

Earlier this fall, your congregation received a letter outlining the next step in the Mennonite Church Canada Being the Faithful Church process (BFC 4.1). The request to choose an issue and work through the 12 paths and 6 ditches of the document: *Exercising our Interpreting Muscle: Testing our Interpretive Framework* is one way your congregation can engage the Bible and continue maturing in your missional journey. I hope you will make time for this study process.

We would love to hear stories from your missional journey. Please send them to me!

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From the Resource Centre:

A concise resource on missional leadership:

www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1814

Other missional church resources:

www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1815