

A stylized dove in shades of green and yellow, with its wings spread. The wings are composed of several overlapping, rounded shapes. Inside the wings, there are silhouettes of hands reaching out. The dove is positioned on the right side of the page, facing right. The text 'GOD FAITH PEOPLE' is overlaid on the dove's body.

**GOD
FAITH
PEOPLE**

***Mennonite Church
Canada Assembly
Saskatoon, Sask
July 6-10, 2016***

Report Book

This is the covenant... I will write it on their hearts;
and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
- Jeremiah 31:33



Theme & Scripture

This is the covenant... I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. - Jeremiah 31:33 (paraphrased)

This year's Assembly logo reminds us that Faith is our connection between God and the People (Jeremiah 31:33).

The dove of peace is our common symbol across Mennonite Church Canada and of the peace building work to which we are called.

The segmented globe reveals the Cross at the centre.

The hands reaching to each other symbolize how God yearns for his people to love, support and join one another in the redeeming work of Christ.

The colours reflect the harmony we seek in the midst of our diversity.

About Your Hosts

Mennonite Church Saskatchewan, the host Area Church for Assembly 2016, welcomes you to Saskatoon, Treaty 6 Territory. MC Sask is made up of 31 congregations with over 2800 worshippers who have covenanted together to be Christ Centred And Sent.

MC Sask Mission:

- To proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ
- To promote spiritual growth and unity among its members through worship and joint programming.
- To give mutual assistance in the work of the Kingdom of God
- To promote missional engagement locally and around the world
- To collaborate with Mennonite Church Canada, our other four area churches, and ecumenically, in being church together.

MC Sask has continually shown strong support for the faith formation of our younger generations through our three area camps, Saskatchewan Mennonite Youth Organization and Rosthern Junior College. As an Area Church, we are strong supporters of Mennonite Central Committee and the work of Restorative Justice, both within the criminal justice system, and with our Indigenous Neighbours. Through the Spruce River Folk Festival, the Walking the Path Ad Hoc Committee and our deepening relationship with the Office of the Treaty Commissioner, we are learning what it means to be Treaty People. We are blessed by your presence here in Saskatchewan and our prayer is that as you make your way home at the close of Assembly, you have been blessed by us.

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How To Use This Report Book

This book contains the reporting materials reflecting our work since we last met.

A basic schedule for the proceedings and an agenda can be found on the last page. A Discernment Guide (published separately) contains the information needed for our discussions and decisions. A more detailed and most current 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 national church.

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 bylaws¹ 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.

¹ 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

AMBS Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary
ANISA Anabaptist Network in South Africa
CAMS Canadian Association of Mennonite Schools
CAN Chinese Anabaptist Network
CCAL Canadian Council of Anabaptist Leaders
CM Canadian Mennonite
CMU Canadian Mennonite University
CPT Christian Peacemaker Teams
CMM Conference of Mennonites in Mexico
FLA Fall Leadership Assembly
FLC Faith and Life Committee
FPAC Financial Policy and Audit Committee
FYE Fiscal Year End
GB General Board
JEC Joint Executive Council
KAC Korea Anabaptist Center
KPMG Auditors for Mennonite Church Canada
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
MEDA Mennonite Economic Development Association
MFC Mennonite Foundation of Canada
MWC Mennonite World Conference
MWC Mennonite Women Canada
PBCI Peacebuilders Community Inc.
SLA Spring Leadership Assembly

Spring and summer are seasons when gardeners cherish every moment in the garden, be it seeding, weeding or watering. In preparation for Assembly 2016, we collectively participate in the organic life of the Church. Gardening is a metaphor Jesus uses to describe God's relationship with us:

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit....I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:1-2, 5)

Ouch! While we delight in the image of being part of the lush vegetation of a fruit-filled vine, we are often unprepared for the necessary pruning that accompanies this relationship. The very notion of pruning fruit-bearing branches seems counter-intuitive and conflicts with our preconceived notions of what is reasonable; yet Jesus clearly places the Gardener's practice of applying shears to non-producing and fruit-bearing branches as part of faithfulness and fruitfulness. We are also reminded that while we may be diligent in our planting and watering, it is God – not us – who brings growth and maturity.

For the past seven years our nation-wide church family has prayerfully traversed the discernment journey we've come to know as *Being a Faithful Church*. The Task Force facilitating the process, made its recommendation in the BFC7 document presented to congregations this past year. Having reviewed the recommendation, your Mennonite Church Canada General Board now invites church delegates at Assembly 2016 to affirm

the recommendation as presented. The decision is about giving space for different views on human sexuality and marriage, while upholding our Confession of Faith and remaining in unity of the Spirit.

Another important conversation these past three years involves a jointly initiated discernment process of area and national bodies of our Church. The Future Directions Task Force (FDTF) was invited to take leadership in helping us discern what God is calling us to in the 21st century. We know the place of our Church in Canadian society has changed and continues to change, seemingly at an accelerating pace. The FDTF sought to glean a clearer sense of where and how we are called to participate in God's mission. Its Final Report has been discussed at all the Area Church gatherings this spring. Along with an addendum summarizing what has been heard in response to the report, the Final Report will be presented to the delegate body at the July 2016 Assembly for further discernment and approval of a path forward.

A growing focus in the life of the Church is linked to our Indigenous neighbours. While Mennonite Church Canada has a history of deep relationships with Indigenous peoples, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) hearings and Final Report by Chief Justice Sinclair led to a greater awareness of systemic injustice and our collective role. In March 2014 Mennonite Church Canada made a commitment to take seriously the TRC challenges to churches. We indicated our desire to "model the reconciling life and work of Jesus in seeking reconciliation." (TRC hearing, Edmonton) Mennonite Church Canada is working closely with other denominations to address TRC recommendations.

Maintaining meaningful relationships with our sister body, Mennonite Church USA continues to be important. The Joint Executive Council (JEC) meets annually and



connects periodically via electronic means. Together, we hold a covenant oversight relationship with MennoMedia and Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS). The JEC provides opportunity to share common concerns, along with unique challenges and approaches to the work of the Church.

In a changing environment, strengthening relationships with our Mennonite educational centres is prudent. Canadian Mennonite University, Conrad Grebel University College, Columbia Bible College and AMBS are integral arms of the Church with unique roles to play.

Our relationships with the global community are also important. In 2015, many within our church family were able to attend Mennonite World Conference in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Our youth and adults joined in worshipful fellowship with our diverse, Anabaptist global brothers and sisters in Christ. Mennonite Church Canada is blessed in being a part of and working with our global community.

Communication, in the context of present needs coupled with expanding technology options, has become an increasingly relevant conversation. Exploring best cross-Canada communication is a priority for us and the *Canadian Mennonite* with whom

we hold a covenant relationship.

We are grateful for the way God continues to guide us through times of joy and sorrow. It is with joy we witness the passion staff bring to their work. At the same time, we are saddened by financial circumstances that led to difficult decisions for staff and program cuts. We lament the inevitable loss that comes with such decisions. Addressing financial concerns is a collective responsibility. Together, we seek to discern a more life-giving direction.

Finally, allow me to express deep gratitude for the countless people who regularly pray for the Church and for those with whom I have had the privilege of serving alongside, while on the General Board

these past ten years. Your ongoing care, prayers and grace have been like a life-sustaining reservoir. We live in a time of reorientation; and the Apostle Paul wisely reminds us that ultimately, we are not in control: *"So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose... For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building."* (I Cor.3:7-9). May we grow in faithfulness, confident in the Gardener's Love.

H. A. Hildebrand

Embracing change

In the closing of my report to our last delegate assembly in 2014, I wrote, "Waves of change are rippling across the Christian church... We are assured of God's presence and comforted by the peace of Christ. May we all experience the joy of God's gentle hand leading us along paths we have not known before."



I can tell you with assurance that I have strongly felt God's loving presence and Christ's peace as our church family contemplates significant changes and developments ahead on our spiritual journey together.

Why are we changing?

Change represents many things to

people, ranging from turmoil to opportunity.

One of the most common questions when facing change is "Why are we changing?" To answer that question it is important to acknowledge and even celebrate our past.

In Canada, the Mennonite family together with the broader Christian family has had a profound influence on society. Hospitals and seniors' care residences have taken root; many have evolved into public institutions. Church-based disaster and relief agencies help the vulnerable in times of floods and fires. Faith-based financial and insurance services have grown out of a desire for mutual aid. Prison ministries, conflict resolution, and mediation ministries have been established. International relief aid serves the marginalized, and in many countries, Mennonite churches are mature or maturing. Most if not all of these ministries have grown out of our churches' deep desire to be disciples of Christ.

However, our beloved institutions germinated in a different era. Families were bigger. Direct church involvement was deeper. Volunteers were more plentiful. Generous givers donated most or all of their tithes to the church. Fewer social services were provided by publicly funded agencies.

This is the experience across all expressions of the Christian church.

What now?

In 2011, Mennonite Church leaders began a conversation to address the many challenges that congregations, area churches, and the national church are experiencing. Following these conversations, area and national church leaders jointly appointed the Future Directions Task Force to study and then recommend new pathways for the church.

Two primary questions surfaced as the FDTF engaged its task:

- What is God's Spirit calling us to in the 21st Century?
- What are the best ways for the church to thrive and grow?

After researching and listening to people in our congregations, the FDTF arrived at the following conclusions:

- The foundational unit of the church, the Body of Christ, is the local congregation.
- Our larger North American context and culture, and Christianity within it, currently is in the midst of immense change. This change will be reflected in at least two significant ways:
 - The form local congregations take will become more diverse, including traditional as well as new models and experimental formats, all with mission as a more central focus.
 - There will be a shift away from the expansive programs and denominational offices founded in the last half of the 20th century, programs which have been tremendously effective, but also contributed to the sense of an institutionalised, professionalised and costly church organisation.

- With the local congregation as the basic unit of the church, none by themselves can or should be autonomous. It is important, both for practical and theological reasons, that congregations bond together in a larger body.
- An integrated, simpler, yet sounder organisation is needed.

As a national church, we have already been working, out of necessity, to enact some of the above conclusions:

- Congregations are core to the support of the international ministry work we do together.
- Congregations of new Canadians have begun returning to their homelands and peoples to minister.
- We have partnered with CMU to create the CommonWord Bookstore and Resource Centre to serve congregations across Canada with the most comprehensive collection of Anabaptist resources available.

- People want to engage the work of the church in different, often non-traditional ways. Our Indigenous Relations ministry in Canada has engaged an estimated 1,500 individuals from our congregations in the five-year-long Truth and Reconciliation process.
- We have been fostering more short term ministry opportunities.
- Together with area church leaders, we have served congregations experiencing internal conflict and helped congregations to envision new ways of being church. We are stronger when we belong to and serve one another.
- By financial necessity, we have had to reduce some programs, ministry, and staff as we look for a more integrated, simpler, and sounder system across national and area church functions.

Throughout this report book, you will find activity reports from our Christian Witness, Christian Formation, and Church Engagement Councils. I encourage you to read every word. There is much to celebrate about what God has enabled us to accomplish with your support!

Finances

Some among our body are calling for more time to consider the implications of re-imagining our area and national church system. However, maintaining the status quo of our ministry portfolio is not sustainable at current donation levels.

Donations from congregations and individuals at both the national and area church level, on average, have been trending down for many years prior to 2011. There have been uplifts on occasion, but these have not altered the overall declining trend. Surpluses, when we have had them, have been largely due to under expended budgets. In 2015, a large donation shortfall of almost \$300,000 more than countered any small surpluses in preceding years. These general downward trends have been noted in a variety of communication channels over the years.

There was a time when fundraising staff were not needed in area or national church settings, but this became necessary in the early 2000s. Since then, our staffs have worked diligently to encourage and strengthen giving. But we are hearing from many congregations that their donation income is also declining. This is reflected in congregational giving to area and national church ministries.

It is important to say "Thank you" for what all givers are able to contribute, and a special "Thank you" to congregations who have led by contributing from their own surpluses, and individuals who have given sacrificially. I do not think that our body is becoming less generous. I do believe we are being generous differently.

There are many needs, and many opportunities to be generous in the world today.

It would not be prudent to continue planning current levels of ministry for the future in light of declining giving trends. As many of you already know, we had to release five staff from their positions in November, 2015, when it became clear that our donations were not likely to rebound sufficiently. In addition, we have already begun the process of reducing our international ministry budget by \$200,000 during the course of 2016-17. These reductions will occur primarily in places where we have partnerships, but no international workers. These changes are reflected in the proposed budget at this assembly. It is with great pain, but also with great thanks, that I recognized the dedicated staff and partners who find themselves without employment or the funding they were expecting.

Working together for a sustainable future

Your voices are needed as we move into a future of uncertainty. We hope this future will have more integration of area and national church ministries, and more ownership of area and national church agenda by congregations. We continue to listen for the voice of God among you. What we are able to accomplish together will be determined by how we discern God's leading for the future of our national faith body. I encourage your prayers for whatever form our transition may take. And more than ever, I encourage your continued and even sacrificial generosity so that we can transition well.

Forging ahead

Along with change comes lament as well as adventure. Some mourn the loss of familiar patterns and programs. Others are ready to lace up their hiking boots and forge ahead into a new future.

Conversations and writings about the work of the Future Directions Task Force have been vigorous and prolific in recent months. This indicates a highly welcome level of caring for the future of our church family – thank you! These conversations present an opportunity to imagine a new reality for us as a family of faith, to dream a new dream together.

I am grateful too for the work of the FDTF and the Being a Faithful Church Task Force. These two processes have been rich. It is the task of the church to be in a constant state of discerning God's will for us. It is a journey we can choose to engage joyfully!

May we be assured of God's presence and the peace of Christ as we listen for the Holy Spirit's divine urging among us at Assembly 2016.

Willard Metzger,
Executive Director

The Faith and Life (FLC) committee

is a committee of the General Board that is charged with the responsibility to lead the church in discernment on issues of theology, ethics, polity and practice with the following duties:

- Attend to the interface among Scripture, the Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective and our identity as Mennonite Church Canada.
- Give leadership to Mennonite Church Canada in discerning God's will on issues of theology, ethics, polity and practice.
- Work cooperatively with educational institutions and other church agencies to facilitate, create and distribute resources for study by and guidance for the church.

In light of the mandate and with the national agenda for Mennonite Church Canada focusing on the BFC process and the FDTF, the Faith and Life Committee has paid attention to what is currently needed for identity as an Anabaptist people of God.

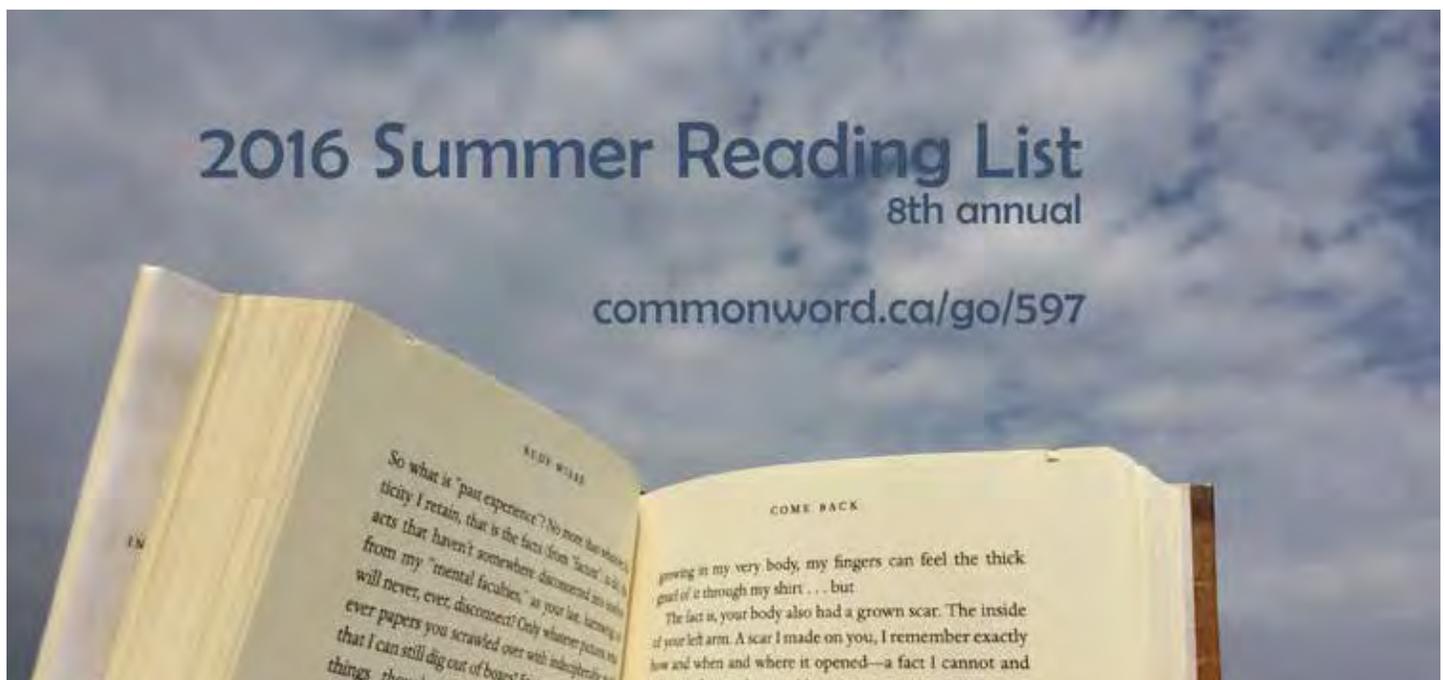
Communication: We are a church body scattered across the country, with growing language, cultural, and theological diversity. What kind of national communication is needed to continue to shape our identity as a people of God, with Jesus Christ as the unifying centre that encourages renewal and witness? Since *Canadian Mennonite* (CM) is independent from Mennonite Church Canada, yet our partner, we first approached CM about the possibility of strengthening the faith formation component of the paper to balance the news and analysis of issues. The CM has responded that their readership is largely satisfied. Since the CM only reaches a portion of the households who make up Mennonite

Church Canada it will be critical for the new national church entity to consider what kind of communication tool(s) will serve identity formation in light of the diverse faith, piety and spirituality found in our congregations. With the diverse mediums available to us in this time, what will serve us best in the years to come?

National gatherings: Gatherings such as an Assembly are significant times of worship, study, discernment and fellowship that also help to shape identity. In a period of history when there is so much that is changing for the church it is critical that the various parts of our faith body gather face to face to be both inspired and stretched by what holds us together as a people of God. *Assembly 2012: Dusting off the Bible for the 21st Century*, with its focus on worship and study is an example of a national gathering that attracted a greater diversity of our church family; including more young adults and first time attendees, leaving participants with a sense of joy that touched both the heart and the head.

This summer the delegates of Mennonite Church Canada will make decisions on two challenging discernment issues before the church. FLC reflected on the significance and potential impact of the BFC and FDTF processes, and therefore recommended 'covenant making' as the theme for this year's Assembly as the overarching biblical and theological framework that could guide worship, plenary sessions and seminars; helping us remember that our identity is rooted in covenant with God and with one another.

Doug Klassen,
Chairperson of FLC



General Board Meeting - July 2, 2014

1. **Consensus:** The General Board accepts the GB minutes of April 15, 2014 as amended.
2. **Consensus:** The General Board agreed to appoint the ED, Moderator and one other person as our representatives to MWC. The third person will be appointed by the GB before each meeting of MWC.
3. **Consensus:** The GB agreed to appoint ED and Executive Committee to look at how GB should engage in its oversight
4. **Consensus:** that the GB accepts the minutes of the July 2013 AGM as presented.
5. **Consensus:** The GB affirms the appointments as noted for Assembly.
6. **Consensus:** The GB affirmed Doug Klassen as chair of Faith and Life.
7. **Consensus:** In light of changing reporting structures with CCAL & MCCC, GB agreed to assume responsibility for selecting delegates for the MCCC Delegates, and that the Bylaws will be amended to reflect.
8. **Motion:** that the GB appoint Ed Heide as member of FPAC. **Approved.**

FLA General Board meeting - Nov 14-15, 2014

1. **Consensus:** The General Board accepts the GB minutes of July 2, 2014.
2. **Consensus:** The General Board accepts the GB minutes of July 6, 2014.
3. **Consensus:** The GB agrees that all matters related to polity will be referred to the GB for discussion and decision after FDTF has completed its work.
4. **Consensus:** We are willing to [help support a TMTC post-doctorate fellowship in Hamburg, Germany] using the Mennonite Church Canada Legacy Tithes Fund. Willard will share our concerns with MCEC, TMTC and Conrad Grebel University College.
5. **Consensus:** The GB affirmed asking Harold Peters-Fransen to be our second representative to the MCC the MCC.
6. **Consensus:** The GB accepts the additions to the long-term worker policy as presented
7. **Consensus:** The GB accepts the short term worker policy as presented.
8. **Consensus:** The GB agrees to accept the funding proposal for the FDTF.

SLA - General Board Meeting - March 6-7 2015

1. **Consensus:** The GB accepts the minutes from November 2014 FLA as amended.
2. **Consensus:** The GB approves the amendments to the policy for Bereavement leave as presented.
3. **Affirmed:** The GB affirms the use of First Fruit funds in the amount of \$10,000 as requested.
4. **Amendment:** Our MWC delegates will be the ED, the Moderator (or designate) and one other person with connection to Formation/Witness, to be determined prior to each meeting.
5. **Affirmed:** The GB affirmed the salary guidelines.
6. **Motion:** that the GB approve the budget as presented. *Moved:* Paul Wideman *Seconded:* Ernie Engbrecht. **Carried.**
7. **Affirmed:** The GB affirms Lisa Carr-Pries as the third representative for MWC July 2015.
8. **Affirmed:** GB affirms the changes to the calendar as noted.

Teleconference Call - Apr16, 2015

1. **Consensus:** The minutes of March 6-7, 2015 accepted as amended.
2. **Motion:** to accept the audited statements for recommendation of approval at the AGM. *Moved:* John Goossen *Seconded:* Paul Wideman. **Carried**
3. **Motion:** to recommend KPMG as auditors for FYE 2016 to be approved at AGM. *Moved:* John Goossen *Seconded:* Aldred Neufeldt. **Carried**

Annual General Board meeting – July 8, 2015

(No Consensus items)

1. **Affirmed:** The General Board affirms the Nomination Slate as presented.
2. **Motion:** to accept the Financial Statements and Auditor's report as presented. *Moved:* John Goossen. *Seconded:* Paul Wideman. **Carried**
3. **Motion:** to appoint KPMG as auditor for 2015-2016. *Moved:* John Goossen. *Seconded:* by Lisa Carr-Pries. **Carried**



FLA General Board meeting – Nov 13-14, 2015

1. **Consensus:** The GB minutes from July 8, 2015 were approved as amended.
2. **Consensus:** Lisa Carr-Pries was affirmed for a three year period to serve on the Executive Committee of MWC.
3. **Consensus:** The GB affirms in principle the direction outlined in the FDTF final report and commends it to the Area Church boards and annual gatherings for further consideration.
4. **Consensus:** The GB thanks the FDTF task force for all their hard work.
5. **Affirmed:** Minutes of AGM, July 8, 2015 were affirmed as amended for presentation to Assembly 2016.
6. **Affirmation:** to accept Privacy Audit as presented.
7. **Affirmation:** Harold Peters-Fransen appointed as our MCC representative at their AGM.

SLA General Board Meeting – April 15, 2016

1. **Consensus:** The minutes of the FLA November 13-14 2015 were accepted as amended.
2. **Consensus:** Based on what the BFC Task Force has heard in our discernment process concerning same-sex committed relationships, and in the spirit of the church speaking again, the General Board endorses the following BFC task force recommendation for delegate affirmation:

One of our foundations of unity has been the Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective. We recommend that it continue to serve the church in the ways suggested in the Introduction of the Confession itself.

We call upon our family of Christ to respectfully acknowledge that there are those among us (congregations and individuals) whose careful study of Scripture and prayerful journey of discernment lead them to a different understanding on committed same-sex relationships than is commonly assumed by readings of Article 9 in our Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective.

We recommend that we create space/leave room within our Body to test alternative understandings from that of the large Body to see if they are a prophetic nudging of the Spirit of God.

Since continued discernment will be required after Assembly 2016, we recommend that Mennonite Church Canada and Area Churches develop a mechanism to monitor the implementation of this recommendation.

(1 abstained but did not wish to stand in the way)

3. **Consensus:** The GB authorizes Laura Loewen, Andrew Reesor-McDowell and Rudy Baergen to answer questions at Assembly 2016 regarding the BFC recommendation on behalf of the GB.
4. **Consensus:** The GB accepts the invitation of the Anglican Church of Canada to enter into an ecumenical learning dialogue.
5. **Consensus:** The GB affirms Peter Peters as the Parliamentarian for Assembly 2016.
6. **Consensus:** the GB requests the FDTF to prepare a supplement to summarize the themes and concerns expressed in Area Church meetings and other sources, for circulation prior to the Assembly.
7. **Consensus:** the GB approves the [FDTF] motion for inclusion in the docket and presentation to Assembly 2016, with one "no" vote.

General Board Conference Call – May 16, 2016

Minutes not available at press time.



**Mennonite
World Conference**
A Community of Anabaptist
related Churches

**Congreso
Mundial Menonita**
Una Comunidad de
Iglesias Anabautistas

**Conférence
Mennonite Mondiale**
Une Communauté
d'Eglises Anabaptistes

Mennonite World Conference 2016 Report to Mennonite Church Canada

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

Thanksgiving and Praise

- "Worship at the MWC Assembly this week is not simply a foretaste of heaven, it is the reality of heaven come down to earth," were closing words from the newly appointed President of MWC Nelson Kraybill. Over 8,450 registrants representing 77 countries "tasted this bit of heaven" as they participated in PA 2015, the MWC Assembly in Harrisburg PA, USA in July 2015.
- The 310 Canadian young people and their sponsors had the "global experience of a lifetime" according to Kirsten Hamm-Epp, one of the prime organizers of getting youth to the Assembly. These youth along with 632 adults and 40 children from MC Canada churches participated in the PA 2015. MWC is grateful for the strong leadership, involvement and financial support provided to the Assembly by MC Canada churches and members.
- You will find Assembly videos and resources in the Mennonite World Conference (MWC) website which can be used in your local congregation. <http://www.mwc-cmm.org>

Mennonite World Conference is More Than Assemblies!

- MWC is much more than a meeting we celebrate every six years. It is our Anabaptist global church with over 1.3 million believers in the 102 national Member Churches, including Mennonite Church Canada. As the Assembly exemplified, MWC is our diverse global Anabaptist faith community, centered in Christ where we build relationships, learn from each other and support each other in being faithful disciples of Jesus Christ in our home churches and communities.
- MWC also represents our opportunity to walk with our brothers and sisters in the global church. For example, last year an MWC delegation accepted the invitation from the *Iglesia Evangélica Unida Hermanos Menonitas de Panamá* to learn about their long struggle to have legally established titles to their land. After the delegates advocated on their behalf, there has been action by the Panamanian government to examine the situation. Or by MWC encouraging global support for Sang Min Lee, the Korean Anabaptist Conscientious Objector who was jailed this past year and who is now out of prison.
- Invite your congregation to join Anabaptist churches around the globe in worship by participating in **World Fellowship Sunday** and **World Peace Sunday** each year. Resource material can be found <http://www.mwc-cmm.org>.

Prayers of Gratitude and Intercession

- Praise God for the 2015 financial support towards the ongoing work of MWC contributed directly through Mennonite Church Canada of \$21,446 USD. In addition MWC received \$44,281 USD from MC Canada local congregations and area churches. This total of \$67,429 USD represents about 51% of the fair share membership assessment for MC Canada for 2015. In addition, \$38,714 USD was contributed for PA 2015.
- Pray for the Anabaptist churches in Nepal, Malawi and India as they continue to recover from natural disasters; for church leaders in Eritrea and elsewhere who face persecution.
- Pray for the three Indonesian Synods that are beginning preparation for **Indonesia 2021**. Begin to make plans now to attend **Indonesia 2021**, the next Global Assembly of MWC!

Submitted by: Lynn Roth, MWC North American Representative & César Garcia, MWC General Secretary



Greetings from Mennonite Church USA, your sister to the south, on the occasion of your biennial meeting at Saskatoon 2016. Moderator Patricia Shelly and I plan to be with you for the occasion, and to meet with many of you both formally and informally. We hope that other members of Mennonite Church USA will attend as well.

Because I regularly read *Canadian Mennonite*, I am aware of the many values, commitments, and challenges we share as sister churches. I follow with interest the work of your BFC process as well as your Future Directions Taskforce. I deeply appreciate the ways that our two country bodies work together, particularly through the coordinating work of the Joint Executive Committee. We regularly review and update a Partnership Covenant to reflect our ongoing mutual commitments. The latest version, dated June 13, 2015, states the following:

1. We will meet as a Joint Executive Committee (JEC) at least annually as stewards of this covenant to ensure that our partnership activities are serving our two national bodies well.
2. We will give and receive counsel with the intent to nurture a healthy interdependence between us and to learn from each other through discussion of our theological commitments and approach to ministry.
3. We will engage in conversation when either of us is contemplating a change in the status of a shared foundational document such as the Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective, Vision: Healing and Hope statement, A Shared understanding of Church Leadership and our visual identity (logo). We will discern together the process that will be used to determine their ongoing life.

4. We will continue to work cooperatively in the process and review of credentialing procedures for persons in ministry, maintaining a common standard for discipline and ministerial ethics, and recognising credentials granted on either side of the national border.
5. We will encourage each other in the pursuit of a missional vision, each within our own context. Since our two nations have distinct secular political climates and cultures, different realities will shape our priorities of witness in our member congregations and national contexts.
6. We will continue to nurture healthy partnerships, including two jointly-governed program ministries – Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary and MennoMedia. The respective by-laws of these two entities describe our two denominations’ legal articulation with these entities.
7. We will encourage the Executive Director of Mennonite Church Canada and the Executive Director of Mennonite Church USA to find ways of visibly demonstrating the importance of our covenant partnership.

I trust these commitments reflect not only the will of our respective Executive Committees, but that of the delegates in our two country bodies as well. That is the spirit in which we hope to continue our journey together in Christ, with whatever adjustments may be needed as you consider changes in the function and structure of your national body.

You may also be interested in several initiatives of Mennonite Church USA, as highlighted below.

- Sexual abuse prevention: In 2015, the Discernment Group on sexual abuse and the church wrote a Churchwide Statement on Sexual Abuse, passed by the KC2015 Delegate Assembly. The group also created the Care and Prevention fund, which received nearly \$61,000 in contributions — approximately \$42,000 to go to victims of sexual abuse, and \$19,000 to be divided among Mennonite Women USA’s Sister Care ministry; the Women in Leadership Project of Mennonite Church USA; and Dove’s Nest, a church organization that works to keep children and youth safe from abuse.
- Doctrine of Discovery educational initiatives: Since the 15th century, the Doctrine of Discovery (DoD) and the laws based on it have legalized the theft of land, labor and resources from Indigenous Peoples across

the world and systematically denied their human rights. The Christian church has historically supported the DoD. Through partnerships with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) and the DoD Coalition, Mennonite Church USA seeks to raise awareness, educate and involve the church in denouncing and dismantling the doctrine. See dofdmennonite.org.

- Immigration justice work: Resources available to congregations and individuals include the free Bible study, Radical Hospitality: Responding to the issue of immigration, and the DREAMer Fund, which helps undocumented young adult immigrants with tuition fees and supports other immigration justice initiatives.
- Ministry with veterans: Resources for congregations supporting veterans as they seek healing for their emotional and spiritual wounds include a monthly newsletter, a Sunday school curriculum and a congregational training on relating to veterans. These are provided by the Peace and Justice Support Network (a partnership of Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Mission Network) and Mennonite Central Committee U.S.
- Love is a Verb Storytelling Campaign: In February 2016, Mennonite Church USA launched an 18-month project exploring the idea of love in action, celebrating the diverse ways we Mennonites are living out the transformative love of Christ all around us. Look for these stories featured on social media (“like” us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram and Twitter) and the Mennonite Church USA website—mennoniteusa.org (sign up to receive our weekly News Service or subscribe to the Menno Snapshots blog). Our biennial convention in Orlando in the summer of 2017 will be the culmination of this project, carrying the same theme: Love is a Verb.

Again, thank you for the warm Christian fellowship we share across the national borders that divide us. May God give you wisdom and discernment for the decisions that you face at this assembly, and bless your churches for the sake of the kingdom.

In Christ,
Ervin R. Stutzman,
Executive Director, MC USA

Mennonite Church Alberta is grateful for a good year in 2015! Our finances left us with a small surplus. While a considerable number of our members rely on employment generated by the oil and gas industry and in fact some churches rely heavily on it, we are humbled by the generosity of our people. Our church donations ended up on track while personal donations were down. We did not execute the same level of fundraising in 2015 and it translated into lower revenue.

Camp Valaqua experienced its third consecutive year of growth with a 7.5 % increase over 2014. There was an increase in Mennonite Church Alberta campers to 82. Total campers were 367 making for 390 camper weeks including those who participated more than once. The fund raising drive for new cabins resulted in their completion just before summer camp began. The definite highlight of the summer was to see Ingrid's vision for a garden at camp come into being. Meals that included produce from the garden were a highlight for the whole camp , and the activities at the garden enhanced that program. Our camp director, Jon Olfert was away on sabbatical last summer and the way he set up camp to run without him is a credit to his resolve. He came back with new ideas and a renewed vigor.

The North Edmonton Ministry continues to evolve as Donna Entz works with Syrians, Somalis, and the housing re-development in her neighborhood. This ministry is a joint effort with Mennonite Church Alberta and Mennonite Central Committee and private supporters. Her connections with the Muslim community fit well into the work required to deal with the influx of Syrian refugees. In January Donna was awarded the Interfaith Advocate Award from the Edmonton Interfaith Centre in recognition of her work in building bridges between faith communities.



Miriam Gross (left) and Donna Entz at Al Rashid Mosque in Edmonton, Alberta. Entz is with Mennonite Church Alberta, and Gross is an intern with Mennonite Central Committee in Alberta. The two organizations are supporting an outreach program in North Edmonton, which connects Mennonite and Muslim communities. Photo by Joanie Peters

In January, 2016 we discovered that twice in the last fifteen years our Assembly voted to make changes to our Constitution but neither was ever registered with the Religious Society Land Act and consequently we need to function under our original Constitution of 2001. We are grateful for the legal counsel we received but decided not to pursue this further in light of potentially far greater changes on the horizon.

We look forward to a good year in 2016 and pray that we shall be good stewards of the resources we are called to sustain and to build.

Submitted by
Ernie Engbrecht – Outgoing Moderator

Over the past several years, MCBC has been involved in a reimagining process which moved through survey, retreat, and discussions until we ended up focused on three themes: Anabaptist Identity, Missional Capacity or Engagement and Being Connected, which we are working through one year at a time. We have moved through a year focused on the Anabaptist Identity piece and the Faith and Life Committee has created resources which are available on the website for congregations to share stories about what it means to be Anabaptist. As a way to highlight the Anabaptist Identity theme, we partnered with Columbia Bible College to do several MCBC/CBC worship services in our congregations. The CBC Travelling Ministry team along with folks from MCBC provided input for the worship services. These events included storytelling and eating together as well. Gareth Brandt, a member of our Faith and Life Committee as well as professor at Columbia Bible College was one of the speakers and continues to be invited to bring this story to our congregations, thus carrying this theme into the next one of missional identity.

As we move into the second theme, our Leaders Elders and Deacons (LEAD) event in February set us on this trajectory with the focus: Leadership in a Broken World: Walking in God's Mission of Reconciliation. Betty Pries of ARC Ministries directed our thoughts on Nurturing a Congregational Spirit of Reconciliation. Her storytelling and insight encouraged a spirit of openness and authenticity.

While at this year's AGM we said farewell to the Surrey Japanese Mennonite Church, and welcomed a new congregation into membership. Northgate Anabaptist Fellowship from Dawson

Creek is a small congregation, now the most northern for both MCBC and Mennonite Church Canada. We heard their story, thanking God for their presence in the body of Christ and asking God's blessing on them as part of our family. A new group is also beginning in Kelowna called The Garage Community Church and a liturgical group in Abbotsford called Valley CrossWay Church is considering application for membership in MCBC.

With the closure in 2015 of Clearbrook Mennonite Church, MCBC became landlords of a church building. Work is now underway through our Evangelism and Church Development Committee to bring the demographics study and how to make sense of the data together with consultation with our three existing Abbotsford congregations to create a plan for the future use of that facility. Their plan is to have a proposal ready for February 2017.

The Service Peace and Justice Committee continues to work in the area of Indigenous Relations with Brander MacDonald spending more time with First Nations folks and inviting us to be part of those connections. There will be opportunity to act on some of the recommendations from the TRC's final report.

As we move through this year focusing on our "missiology", we will be looking for ways to encourage congregations in reconciliation within their own communities, extending God's grace and peace to build bridges between people and between people and God. It all comes down to relationships!

Submitted by
Lee Dyck, Moderator



2015 in Review

Extending the Peace of Jesus Christ
making disciples • growing congregations • forming leaders

MCEC is 108 faith communities together extending the peace of Jesus Christ through making disciples, growing congregations and forming leaders.

Chin Christian Church (Kitchener) became full members of MCEC and MC Canada at the 2015 Annual Church Gathering. They are a congregation of approximately 130 worshippers under the leadership of Pastors Joseph Raltong and Jehu Lian. It was with great joy that they were received into full membership.

Sexual misconduct by church leaders is a topic that MCEC has intentionally addressed over the past year. *Sacred Trust, Fostering Safe Space in Congregations* is a series of educational e-notes written by Carol Penner, former MCEC pastor and current pastor at Lendrum Mennonite Brethren Church in Alberta. Each e-note contains stories that help us to understand the nature of sexual misconduct. These can be found at www.mcec.ca.

Some other highlights include:

- ReLearning Community, a two-year coaching model that is intended to help congregations explore ways to become more missionally engaged with their neighbours.
- The Anabaptist Learning Workshop (ALW) offered in collaboration with Conrad Grebel University College was launched fall 2015. Each workshop seeks to build a culture of lifelong learning within Anabaptist churches and are open to people who are interested in the topic, both laypeople or pastors.
- Leadership Training for Under Resources Neighbourhoods under the leadership of Colin McCartney is exploring ways to resource and train young church leaders in vulnerable communities in the Greater Toronto Area.

We anticipate God's continued faithfulness as we discern God's leading and engage our world with the peace of Jesus Christ.

- David Martin, Executive Minister



At the invitation of Pastor Jehu (left), he and David Martin (right) travelled to Myanmar for a time of teaching on Anabaptism, learning and meeting with local congregations.

MCEC at a Glance



Faith Communities

108 Faith Communities
98 Congregations
10 Church Plants



Pastors

316 MCEC Pastors
26 Placements in 2015
8 Interim Pastors in 2015
13 Ordained & Licenced in 2015

Contact Us:



225-476-2500 (local)



855-476-2500 (toll free)



mcec@mcec.ca

www.mcec.ca



Mennonite
Church
Eastern
Canada

In the past two years we as Mennonite Church Manitoba have been intensely and variously discerning the nature and extent of our unity in faith and our vision for mission while continuing several significant ministries.

Being a Faithful Church

MCM planned and conducted a Bible Study conference on same-sex relationships in September 2015. Teachings on interpreting the Bible in general and of specific passages and on accepting the church's diversity while upholding its unity in Christ were enhanced by worship and were processed in small groups and plenary discussion. Nearly 200 persons attended and the teaching sessions are available on the MCM website. Many expressed appreciation for the conference, but some were not satisfied with the lack of a definitive decision on same-sex marriage or with the position they inferred from the presentations and discussion. Subsequently and regrettably the Bergthaler Mennonite and the Grace Mennonite Churches in Winkler withdrew from membership in Mennonite Church Manitoba and Mennonite Church Canada.

On the other hand the MCM Annual Gathering approved a set of "Guidelines for Upholding Agreement with MCM's Confession of Faith" which are intended to "create space... to test alternative understandings" in accord with the recommendations of Being a Faithful Church 7. These guidelines have already been helpful for conversations with several congregations.

New Vision for Mission

The outcome of an extended discernment about the future of our camps and camping ministries is the articulation of a vision "to nurture the spiritual growth of the next generation... and the local mission efforts of our churches." We intend to realize these goals by enhancing Camp Assiniboia and continuing to use Camp Moose Lake and Camp Koinoinia even as we transfer the responsibility of maintaining and operating the latter two camps to groups or congregations within MCM. At Camp Assiniboia we plan to offer mission retreats for congregations, hospitality for families of murdered and missing indigenous women, and a one-year "gap" service program for young adults. To host these new ministries we want to add a chapel, a mini-farm, residences and



An 8 hour live streamed song-a-thon in April raised about \$20,000 to improve camp infrastructure <http://www.mennochurch.mb.ca/2016/03/build-a-cabin-song-a-thon-video/>

several pavilions and trails in its forest as well as replace, repair or expand a swimming pool, maintenance building, staff housing, mini-conference center, main lodge, and recreation hall.

Future Directions

After extended and intense discussions and registering several reservations and questions, the Annual Gathering of MCM "adopted in principle the understandings of the Future Directions Task Force ... with the intention of participating in creating a reconstituted national entity along the lines envisioned in the task force report" by a two-thirds majority vote.

Finances and Office

Contributions from member congregations declined over the past two years but with good management, a major bequest, and increased revenue from our camps we concluded 2015 with a slight surplus. We are moving our offices to the main floor of 600 Shaftesbury Blvd. and will share reception and other support services with Mennonite Church Canada.

Conclusion

Our vision for mission is intended to explore and align with God's reconciling mission to "gather up all things in him" (Ephesians 1:9-10). May this be so for all of our activities.

Submitted by
Peter Rempel

What is happening at MC Sask? Our churches are working together as they support the work and programs we do together. MC Sask churches also support the work and programs of Mennonite Church Canada. We know that some of that support is diminishing for various reasons. We recognize that without our local congregations joining together with time, finances, enthusiasm and vision, our collective efforts will continue to diminish.

In the past months Ryan Siemens (our Area Church Minister) and I have had nine area meetings at which we met with representatives from all our congregations in Saskatchewan. This was a great opportunity to listen and hear how congregations in all areas of our province are living their mission in their communities and in the broader world.

Over half of MC Sask congregations are sponsoring refugees as individual congregations or together with other churches or community groups. Some congregations have opened the doors of their library to the community, others have Sunday school together with neighbourhood churches, still others have day care or play school in their facilities, and some provide community meal programs or work at clothes closets. The list goes on.

Members of our congregations volunteer with MCC, MDS and local community groups. They connect with Mennonite Church Canada workers in various parts of the world. They are appreciative of resources offered by Mennonite Church Canada. We work together in many places and in many ways.

MC Sask individuals and congregations continue to work at discernment processes regarding, church membership, mission (locally and internationally), ecumenical relations, sexuality, and conference relations as well as others.

As we work at understanding each other and discerning how to



proceed into the future, it seems that many of us, especially our younger groups have little patience for quarrelling and judging or wasting time doing both. Younger folks are more interested in getting on with our mission.

Our society is ever changing and doing so at a faster pace. It is also true in the church at all levels. This is extremely scary for some, causes some apprehension for others and is an exciting challenge with many possibilities for others.

At MC Sask we look forward with anticipation to working together at local church, regional church and national church levels as we refocus on our mission and outline how together we will carry that mission forward.

Submitted by
Ken Warkentin, Moderator



BFC 6.1: Summary and Analysis of BFC 6 Responses¹

1. Introduction

We are grateful to God for the time dedicated by congregations and individuals in responding to the Being a Faithful Church 6 (BFC 6) discernment request in 2014/2015. We received about 100 pages of thoughtful and helpful responses for BFC 6 from more than 50 congregations and about 25 individuals and groups. There were many expressions of appreciation for the opportunities provided for congregational discernment. There were also testimonies indicating that the congregational conversations were helpful and that interest was very high.

We begin by thanking each group, congregation, and individual for your insightful and helpful responses.

It has been our privilege to read the reports, reflect on them, and utilize them for further recommendations.

2. BFC6 Summary: What did we ask? And what did we hear?

BFC 6 asked for feedback on three questions:

1. *How shall we maintain our unity in Christ as congregations, Area Church/National Church while understanding matters of committed same-sex relationships differently?*
2. *How will your congregation strengthen Christ's love to those who are same-sex oriented?*
3. *What additional counsel do you have for the Area/National Church?*

As a Task Force we have worked hard at reading, understanding, and charting the responses. In this report we wish to identify the key common threads that we saw in the responses. We also want to identify some of the "shorter" threads: important perspectives expressed, but less often.²

¹ We refer to the "Discernment Guide" that went to the congregations in October/2014 - together with the responses from congregations - as BFC 6. We refer to the analysis and summary of the responses by the Task Force as BFC 6.1.

² The narrative nature of the responses received does not allow for quantitative numbers or percentages to be assigned, but 'key common threads' reflect unanimous, independently arrived at, conclusions of Task Force members.

Key common threads.

- a) Discernment on how to respond to committed same-sex relationships is best exercised in the context of congregational life.
- b) We have not disagreed well in the past; that is, we have not dealt well with conflict in our congregations, and we do not have good models for stepping into disagreements or disputes.
- c) The tone and content of the responses indicated that there was a deep level of engagement in the discussion around BFC 6.
- d) Responses indicated a strong sense of the need for hospitality toward those with whom we disagree. Some of the phrases/words used to indicate this were: "safe place," "listening," "respect/respectful."
- e) There was a call for engaging (listening to/hearing) more stories from the LGBTQ community.
- f) The responses indicated a continuing desire for unity in the Body and a hope that fragmentation or splintering would be avoided.
- g) Relationships make a difference. Congregations that have first-hand experience with same-sex attracted people in their midst are more ready to engage in the conversation.
- h) There was a call to provide room for disagreement. There was an additional call to provide "space" for those congregations who have discerned that God has called them to greater acceptance of committed same-sex relationships.
- i) There was recognition that unity is not simply a matter of agreement. It is a deeper commitment to each other and to the Body, even where there is disagreement.
- j) Some suggested that the first priority must be agreement on "truth" and "faithfulness" and the concern for unity must be secondary. In the same vein, others suggested that unity in Christ and organizational unity are not the same thing. (Both short threads.)
- k) The BFC 6 responses indicated an increased number over BFC5 and earlier BFC feedback of congregations and individuals with a desire/intention to move towards greater inclusiveness.
- l) Responses mentioned the important role of the *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective* as a guide. Others viewed it as a basis for discipline (shorter thread). Still, others called for it to be changed (shorter thread).

- m) Responses received from individuals tended to be more definitive in tone than the responses from congregations. Many of the “congregational” responses indicated that they did not represent the entire congregation, but only a particular group within it, like the Council, Sunday School class or special discussion group.
- n) Responses indicated that ongoing biblical study is required and that discernment is not yet finished.
- o) Responses indicated a reluctance to discipline others, either by excommunication or removal of credentials. A shorter thread, however, did call for discipline to be exercised by the Area or National Churches against churches or pastors at variance with the *Confession of Faith from a Mennonite Perspective*.
- p) Responses indicated a desire for the National Church to lead in providing resources for worship, study, and inspiration.
- q) Responses indicated that it is more important to remain focused on core matters of faithfulness and ministry than on matters of disagreement.
- r) Responses indicated that Christ calls us to love all people despite our differences.

Three Key Elements from BFC6

Three key elements in the responses should be noted:

- a) There is a deep yearning for unity among us – unity of the Spirit which is also manifested in unity of ministry, organization, and structure.
- b) Prayerful discernment about how to respond to same-sex realities in our congregations has led us to divergent understandings.
- c) Because the yearning for unity is linked to the reality of difference in discernment, space for difference/diversity is needed.

How do we understand these key elements? Some point to the biblical teaching about forbearance to describe the need to maintain the unity of the Spirit in spite of differences among us. Others point to the necessary role of the prophetic voice calling God’s people to faithfulness, with the understanding that the Body of Christ must constantly engage in “testing the spirits” to see if they are of God. Still others point to the critical role that personal conscience has played in Anabaptist history.

We are grateful for the responses received, and these, along with the previous rounds of discussion and feed-back, will provide the basis for recommending future steps.

September , 2015

Christian Formation Mandate :

The core activities of the Christian Formation Council shall focus on providing leadership and resources to enable Area Churches and their constituent congregations to promote the Christian formation of their members, including, but not limited to:

- (a) congregational and ministerial leadership;
- (b) youth and young adult ministry;
- (c) Christian education and nurture; and
- (d) resources and publishing

Formation Budgets:¹

Fiscal Year Ending 2015 (Net): \$655,535

Fiscal Year Ending 2016 (Net): \$743,533

Congregational and Ministerial Leadership

Transitioning into Ministry (TiM): The TiM program, inspired by a similar activity in MCEC was first launched nationally in 2013. TiM is our response to survey information that a high percentage of new pastors leave the ministry in their first five years of service. TiM is a two-year coaching program to help guide new pastors through their first experience leading a congregation. A group of four pastors receive coaching every two months from an experienced pastor, developing reflective habits of resourcefulness with peers to help face the complexities of ministry.

"Insightful, meaningful, clarifying and fruitful" are assessments beginning pastors offered after a recent online gathering session where they presented case studies from their ministry. The first cohort of pastors 'graduated' in June 2015 and the second cohort of 4 pastors from the western area churches will 'graduate' this spring. Financial support for the TiM program is welcome at donate.mennonitechurch.ca/project/MentorPastors.

Pastoral training: For decades the Master of Divinity has been named as the training that best equips pastors for congregational ministry but the training needed to lead congregations in the 21st century is under vigorous scrutiny across denominations. The Leadership Commission, which brings together presidents and

¹ Since moving to an every-other-year assembly pattern, this report documents activity highlights from post-Assembly 2014 through January 31, 2016.

academic deans of the four post secondary schools (AMBS, CGUC, CMU and CBC) together with the area church ministers and national church leaders on a yearly basis, is a place where there is dialogue for the schools to hear what the church is looking for in leadership training and for the school to speak to the church about what they are observing and learning.

Two resources that have resulted from Leadership Commission engagement:

Mennonite Higher Education Matters: www.commonword.ca/FileDownload/19572/Mennonite_Higher_education_-_2up.pdf

A resource tool for congregational leaders and pastors in developing relationships and growth plans for support and accountability: www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/52/7843

Company of 1000: The Company of 1000 is a study reserve fund to help pastoral students receive the training needed to lead a congregation in the changing world of the 21st century and for current pastors to continue to be resourced for ongoing ministry. Recently the fund assisted Pastor Ken Quiring (Grace Mennonite Church, Brandon, Man.) and as a result of that generosity, made it possible for the congregation to fund lay leader Pam Nightingale to receive intensive training in Biblical storytelling. In an era when fewer people are reading their Bible, Ken says Biblical storytelling is first of all transforming him to trust and see what God is doing, and is igniting seven-year-olds to seniors to passionately share Bible stories with others. In a time when full time pastoral ministry is shrinking for some

congregations, Biblical storytelling is life giving and sustainable for lay led worship. As Grace Mennonite grows in this ministry, Ken is eager to share what they are learning with the larger church. Contributions to the Company of 1000 study reserve fund are deeply appreciated and can be made at donate.mennonitechurch.ca/project/co1k.

Multi-cultural leadership development: With 20 languages of worship in 40 of our 225 congregations, the training needs of leaders from these congregations are often unique. Mennonite



"Yesterday I received a bill that I hadn't budgeted for and wasn't sure how I would pay, today in the mail I received a cheque from the Mennonite Church Canada Company of 1000, which will support my spouse and I as I study theology. Thank you to everyone who supports programs like these that create a future for the church. God is Good."

- Timothy Wenger

Church Canada helped support Dinora Navarrete Villalta from Toronto Mennonite New Life Church to attend AMBS Pastors Week in 2015, collaborated with MCEC in Hispanic Leadership training activities, and also collaborates with MCBC on a leadership training series or event each winter. One example is a study of Anabaptist Hermeneutics and teaching adults with Jack Suderman.

We invite your support for multi-cultural leadership development: donate.mennonitechurch.ca/project/multicultural

Resources for pastors and congregations:

Pastoral Salary guidelines: Every five years Mennonite Church Canada conducts a major review of pastoral salaries that includes feedback from Area Church Ministers as well as a meeting with congregational leaders from one Area Church in rotation. The 2016 Pastoral Salary Guidelines can be found at www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/23/17839.

Ministerial Leadership Information and placement: The MLI is the ministry application process that provides the names and ministerial information of pastoral candidates. Mennonite Church Canada co-ordinates this process. Congregational search committees can access information about available pastors through their area church ministers.

A Shared Understanding of Leadership: Building upon the work *A Mennonite Polity for Ministerial Leadership (1996)*, this resource frames the task of leadership through a missional lens in order to more fully become the church God is calling us to be. It reflects biblical roots and Anabaptist theology through contemporary expressions of best practices and shared understandings of church leadership. This is a reference book with which all pastors and congregational leadership teams should be familiar. It is jointly written by Mennonite Church Canada and MC USA. (www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/2/17094)

Ministerial Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedure: Work is well underway in updating this bi-national resource.

Relationships for Support, Growth and Accountability: Intentional relationships that care for our well-being and stretch us in new ways are both needed for there to be joy and courage for growing fruitfulness and gospel risk-taking in ministry.

The documents in this series provide a framework and resources for developing a congregational leadership team plan for growth and accountability as well as individual leadership growth and accountability plans. www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/52/7843

Youth and Young Adult Ministry

A delegate decision in 2011 meant that Assemblies would occur once every two years rather than annually, with enactment planned to begin following the 2012 Assembly. However, this meant that Youth Assemblies, which had earlier begun meeting every two years, with its most recent gathering in 2011, were out of sync with adult assemblies. A plan was laid out for a youth assembly to:

1. be held in 2013;
2. be planned for 2015 in conjunction with the Mennonite World Conference in Pennsylvania;
3. be held in 2016 to once again realign the adult and youth assembly schedules.

Youth Assembly 2015: Over 300 youth and youth sponsors made the trip to Pennsylvania for Mennonite World Conference in July – well above the originally anticipated 200 attendees. Organizers Kirsten Hamm-Epp and Dave Bergen planned dedicated time and activities for just Canadian youth, as well as integrating them into the entire MWC experience. The response from youth was resoundingly positive.

Eighteen-year-old Gabby Martin of Saskatchewan said her MWC experience encouraged her to think more about church engagement and leadership from a young person's perspective (excerpted from *Canadian Mennonite*, Aug. 26, 2015,

“One of the speakers said, ‘I don’t want to be referred to as the future of the church; I am the church. Martin recalled. “It blew my mind because I guess we’re not sitting on the sidelines, we’re really here. I can make a difference as a youth. I don’t have to wait to grow up.”

Martin says she thinks her experience at the assembly will translate to her local church and area church.

“I’m not going to be afraid to say what I’m thinking, or to join groups at church,” she says. “It’s just good to know that people appreciate that.”

MWC Global Youth Summit: Chris Brnjas, associate pastor at The Gathering Church in Kitchener was appointed to represent Mennonite Church Canada at the Global Youth Summit (GYS), July 17-19. Chris felt a deep kinship with fellow delegates at this young adult gathering to the GYS. In a report following the event he wrote, “We were separated by language, ethnicity, and even theological differences. And yet, we felt like family. One American delegate commented during the delegate sessions that he felt like he was ‘amongst my people.’” (see news.mennonitechurch.ca/global-youth-summit-just-family)

Plans were well underway for a meaningful and fun Youth Assembly 2016. Unfortunately due to low registrations the Youth Assembly needed to be canceled. We are grateful to Kirsten Hamm-Epp of Mennonite Church Saskatchewan and her team of volunteers for all the creative planning that they had put into place to make this event happen.

Christian education and nurture

Formation consultant, Elsie Rempel has networked widely across the church in the development of resources for worship and formation. Since 2002 Elsie has developed *At Home* booklets for the Advent and Lent seasons; to complement congregational worship.

Advent: www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/23/6521

Lent: www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/23/6522

Over the years these resources led to the characters of Chris and Sela becoming key figures in children's videos that introduced some of our international Witness work:

www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/54/16557

With the Formation Consultant role having ended in November, 2015, these and other worship resources will no longer be developed. We are deeply grateful that work Elsie initiated with other partners on a faith formation conference will still come to fruition. We invite you to consider attending 'Deep Faith Conference: Anabaptist Faith Formation for All Ages' home.mennonitechurch.ca/node/715

Kid Shorts: We partnered with young adult film-maker Paul Plett of Ode Productions in a series of videos called Kid Shorts, which reframe selected but familiar Bible stories in modern day settings. Each of the five videos comes with an accompanying study guide. www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/54/17169

Discipleship: *Begin Anew*, a basic discipleship curriculum by Palmer Becker, jointly funded by Mennonite Church Canada and MC USA, has been completed and is now available in both Spanish and English. Plans are underway to develop 16 eight minute videos to accompany the study guide. www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/16/17368

Communion project: Elsie Rempel completed a study guide on our theology and practices of communion. *Come Lord Jesus Be Our Host* provides tools to help congregations navigate the waters of change in relation to communion. www.commonword.ca/FileDownload/20250/2014_Come_Lord_Jesus.pdf

Resource translations: There is renewed energy for completion of a Lao translation of Confession of Faith. However, Laotian documents for church use in Laos require a level of official

approval by the Laotian authorities. The process of gaining a consensus among Laotian leaders in North America which is at the same time acceptable within Laos can be challenging.

What is an Anabaptist Christian

by Palmer Becker has been completed in Laotian, and has received approval for use in Laos by Mennonite Church Canada partners there.

www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/2/17890. The English and previously translated Spanish version were welcomed as resources by the Steinreich Bible School in Cuauhtemoc, Mexico.

The need for ongoing translation of Mennonite resources is real. Please consider a gift to this work via donate.mennonitechurch.ca/project/rc-translation



Sports and Faith: Mennonite Church Canada and MCEC have together resourced the church on the intersection of Sports, Faith and Leadership. The CommonWord Bookstore and Resource Centre has been designated as the primary platform for all things related to this topic. There are already 15 related items (books, studies, and video material). It will continue to grow as new material is identified or created. A panel discussion on the theme with Olympic medalist Cindy Klassen was well received. In May of 2015 there was a second event with Chris Huebner, professor at Canadian Mennonite University and avid cyclist on how theology and philosophy overlap with various aspects of the athletic life. www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/48/18041

Every Creature Singing: With financial support from Mennonite Central Committee Canada, Mennonite Church Canada began in 2015 to develop a Canadian version of *Every Creature Singing: Embracing the Good News for Planet Earth*, an adult curriculum originally produced by Mennonite Creation Care Network. www.mennocreationcare.org/every-creature-singing

Resources and Publishing

CommonWord Bookstore and Resource Centre: In January, 2015, the doors to CommonWord officially opened. CommonWord is a new entity resulting from a collaboration of Mennonite Church Canada's Resource Centre and CMU's Bookstore, situated next to CMU's library in the new Marpeck Commons building.



The first weeks proved to be dynamic with increased traffic from CMU community, the neighbourhood, and wider ecumenical circles. Significant promotion to Winnipeg churches, the immediate area, and the CMU/Mennonite Church Canada constituencies has generated good traffic in these early days. An Open House on February 7, 2015 was very well attended – and most people were non-Mennonites. Folio Café, in the same building, is a terrific partner. A partnership with Ten Thousand Villages is strong, with their efforts giving added recognition to this new initiative. These events, a social media presence on FaceBook, and a revised newsletter now called the *CommonWord Curator* have all helped in our outreach efforts.

A joint CMU-Mennonite Church Canada Management Team oversees operations. Thank you to the congregations who helped financially support the capital costs to establish CommonWord. Funding is still needed to complete the cost of this project (donate.mennonitechurch.ca/project/cw).

In addition to items for purchase, CommonWord houses over 11,000 Anabaptist resources, arguably the largest such selection in Canada. These items are available for loan to congregations and individuals across the Mennonite Church Canada family. Shipping costs for books, both ways, are free to the user. Items are available for loan, download, or streaming from www.commonword.ca.

A few highlights of CommonWord's first year of operation:

- Retail sales are growing generously compared to when the CMU Bookstore was its own entity.

- Members from the local community are visiting.
- Online loans of resources have remained essentially stable.
- 43% of Mennonite Church Canada congregational borrowers are from outside Manitoba.
- Subscriptions to the CommonWord Curator have increased since opening.
- Membership sales are increasing.

Users say...

- *Whenever I read the Update, I'm guaranteed to find new resources that I didn't know existed.*
- *I know that the resources have been carefully looked at before they're offered. So it's not like looking at a sales flyer filled with junk, but a resource cupboard filled with everything that I'll need to do ministry.*
- *I love it when the Update email comes in! I subscribe because I trust that the resources will be valuable for me to use in ministry.*
- *The Update contains a wide range of resources, not just books. Different kinds of resources bring new perspectives.*
- *If I were to just check the website I would only look for resources I think I need but when I receive the Update [CommonWord Curator newsletter] there are often resources I hadn't thought of needing that pique my interest and fill my cup!!*

Anyone wishing to support the ongoing acquisition of resources is invited to make a gift via donate.mennonitechurch.ca/project/cw.

Mennonite Heritage Centre and Art Gallery

Mandate: The Mennonite Heritage Centre (MHC) is a partner program of Mennonite Church Canada, which owns and governs the centre. The MHC operates two programs, the Archives and Gallery. The MHC archives mandate has expanded and grown with each succeeding generation, formally beginning in 1933. Its mandate was revisited in 2006 and expressed as follows:

- To foster faith-renewal through promoting greater understanding of the history and life of the church and its people in the Anabaptist/Mennonite tradition.
 - To nurture the life, faith and heritage of the Anabaptist/Mennonite tradition through sponsoring lectures, producing publications, and creating partnerships with heritage-related organizations
 - To be custodians of the stories of faith through collecting the important materials for preservation and by maintaining the best archival standards for storage, arrangement, description, retrieval, and use
 - To serve individuals, congregations, and other organizations with their information needs in order to grow in their understanding and faith



Korey Dyck, director of the Mennonite Heritage Centre, shows a 16th century hymn book to guest Donna Heinrichs-Gail, visiting from Austria.

Funding: The MHC Archives receives 40% of its operating budget from Mennonite Church Canada. The remaining 60% is sourced from other revenue streams and direct gifts from donors. The MHC Gallery is dependent on donations to cover 100% of its operating budget.

Capital Campaign: The MHC Archives and Gallery embarked upon and completed a preservation needs assessment using an external consultant. The 75 page report offered 79 recommendations for both building and program improvement. Aside from the addition of used mobile shelving in the archives and the renovation of the Gallery space in the 2000's due to water damage, little building improvement, additional equipment, or increased personnel have been added since the Heritage Centre was built in 1979. The MHC staff is currently creating a strategic plan to address both the archives and gallery's physical, digital, and staffing needs and their possible solutions for the future. The plan will be completed prior to Assembly in July 2016.

Activities Update

Serving family, genealogical and academic researchers: The Archives continues to service, at last count, over 1,100 requests for assistance per year, with an increasing number making on-line requests. We continue to add various media and documents on an on-going basis. Currently there is an 8 year processing backlog of materials to be added to catalogues and added to the vault. Approximately 1% of our holdings (which if stacked in a column are taller than the CN Tower) are available on-line. Below are some highlights of our activities.

- An on-going Archives Reference Council was organized and convened in Fall 2014
- On Nov 15-16, 2014, the archives held a seminar and a service of celebration for the 225th Anniversary of Prussian Mennonites moving to Russia. Over 189 attended.
- Donation: Scans of Bartsch and Hoepfner immigration letters beginning in 1789. 109 pages from Henry Epp of Calgary. Future donation of hand written Gothic script copies of originals expected.
- Donation: William Schroeder's map collection (co-author of the *Mennonite Historical Atlas*)
- Future Donation: Arthur Kroeger clock collection. A to-be-determined number of Kroeger clocks will be donated to the archives.
- The Indigenous-led Red River Regional Seed Library has begun in partnership with the CMU Farm, now renamed to Metanoia Farmers. The Heritage Centre contributes a stable environment and storage space for the Seed Library.
- MHC Archives intern Jordon Zimmerly, in fulfilling his CMU practicum, is researching Indigenous Relations materials archived at the Mennonite Heritage Centre in preparation for donating these materials to the Truth and Reconciliation Archives in Winnipeg.
- The Association for Manitoba Archives (AMA) is renting office space at the MHC
- The MHC Gallery has launched a new Gallery website at gallery.mennonitechurch.ca/ and a Facebook page
- The Archives has launched a new website and blog at archives.mennonitechurch.ca/

- The Archives has launched a used book sales site at www.abebooks.com/.
- We have launched a new history film channel at vimeo.com. This should be live by the time you read this.
- The new Mennonite Archival Image Database (MAID) photo database project sponsored by Mennonite Historical Society of Canada (MHSC) was launched in 2015. MAID will eventually house all MHC photos (approx. 30,000) for better organization and accessibility. Future development plans for the website will allow for audio, video, and text holdings to be included. This will become the source for all Mennonite photos of Canadian origin from each archive and provincial historical society. In one year, MHC has uploaded 4,000 photos with an average of 200+ photos added per week to the MAID website at archives.mhsc.ca/.
- The Evangelical Mennonite Conference (EMC) moved its records to the MHC in September 2015. MHC became the official repository of the EMC's 383 box archive.
- Menno Colony in Paraguay has requested support in developing their archives in advance of their 90th Anniversary celebrations. MHC looks forward to offering assistance.
- MHC has received several records donations: slides, negatives, and papers related to the creation of the Experimental Farm in Paraguay. Samuel McRoberts photo collection. Over 230 photos were donated by the McRoberts family of the first land scouting mission to Paraguay for possible settlement.
- MCC Europe donated a 110,000+ family database of Umseidler (immigrant) families of Mennonites who re-settled from the former Soviet Union to Germany from 1969 - 2000. These files have yet to be organized and recorded in the GRANDMA database.
- The archives provided research materials to the executive staff on past Mennonite responses to Assisted Suicide.

Conscientious Objectors Film: In August 2015, we received written notice from the Canadian Department of Heritage that the archive was awarded \$36,800 to create a Conscientious Objector (CO) video documentary. A first preview version of the film has been completed at the time of this writing. Discussion of spin-off projects with Parks Canada, the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, and Manitoba Telecom (MTS) include private and public video launches, restored CO photos, and a CO cell phone app at Riding Mountain National Park.

Anyone wishing to support the ongoing need to preserve Mennonite faith and church history is invited to contribute (donate.mennonitechurch.ca/project/archives).

Art Gallery

The MHC Art Gallery, which is entirely self-funded, continues to provide a significant venue for artists and visitors to explore the intersection of faith and the visual arts from around the world. About seven exhibitions each year are available for patrons. A



Along the Road to Freedom is a 26 paintings collection by Ray Dirks depicting Mennonite women of courage and faith.

sampling of recent exhibitions included quilting arts, batiks, sculpture, paintings, multi-media, illustration, photography, indigenous art, and explored themes of power, women and power in domesticity, houses as life, heritage through farm animals, honour (focusing on Albanian Muslims who protected Jews during the Holocaust), and northern hydro development. The Gallery also plays a significant role in bringing together people from different

faith communities through the medium of art. Curator Ray Dirks is frequently invited into schools and cultural centres to deliver workshops that help bridge people from a variety of cultures who have chosen to settle in Canada.

Leap in Faith: Leap in Faith is a three phase project Ray Dirks is working on with artist Manju Lodha. Phase one was a 38 minute video focusing on introducing viewers to various faiths now in Winnipeg. The video was funded primarily by the Manitoba government. In 2014 and 2015, Manju, Isam Aboud and Dirks

gave art workshops to several hundred students from grade five to adult EAL, asking participants to share about their faith in an artwork. This was sponsored by The Winnipeg Foundation. The third phase, the creation of a book, will complement Manitoba Education curriculum and be distributed, along with the video, to all Manitoba schools.

Along the Road to Freedom: This is an ambitious project comprising 26 paintings by Ray Dirks depicting Mennonite women of courage and faith who fled Russia after the revolution. A coffee table book in partnership with CMU Press will follow. The exhibit has travelled to some congregations, Conrad Grebel University College, and was present at the opening of the new Mennonite Museum in Abbotsford in January 2016.

Reaction to *Along the Road to Freedom*, which made an appearance at the MWC 2015 assembly, was substantial. Dirks said, "A steady stream of people came to me in tears - as many who have no connection to Russia... as those who do." Many visitors to the exhibit left powerful comments, such as Carol Wenger of Lancaster, PA:

"I found myself wanting to weep as the wounds faced by each woman was lanced through art surfacing the incredible pain and adversity each faced. Capturing life's painful and hopeful journey on a canvas is, indeed, masterful, and Dirks has done so. The artist's compassion for his subjects was evidenced in this sensitive and meaningful work. This is a "must see" not only for Mennonites but also for anyone interested in life's essence."

The work of the Gallery benefits greatly from the extraordinary help of volunteers like Lori Matties, Danielle Koslowsky and Reymond Page, and the reliability and hard work of Connie Wiebe and the patience and support of Corey Dyck.

In a recent report, Dirks wrote, "I continue to attempt to move the gallery forward as an exhibition venue, a base for touring exhibitions and a base for projects which reach beyond art and Mennonites to doing, I pray, meaningful things on behalf of the church in places other arms of the church may not have as much or the same kind of access."

Anyone wishing to support this art ministry is invited to contribute via donate.mennonitechurch.ca/project/gallery

Respectfully submitted by

Lisa Carr-Pries, Chair, Christian Formation Council, and
Karen Martens Zimmerly, Executive Minister, Formation & Pastoral Leadership

Staff & Council

Thank you for your prayers, your counsel, your gifts, and your involvement in the ministry of Christian Formation.

We are grateful for the commitment and dedicated service to the church of staff whose work has ended:

Dave Bergen,

Executive Minister (ended Sept., 2015 after 11 years of service)

Lois Bergen,

Executive Assistant to the Executive Minister, Formation & Pastoral Leadership (ended Nov., 2015 after 23 years of service)

Elsie Rempel,

Formation Consultant (ended Nov., 2015 after 13 years of service)

Current Formation Staff

Karen Martens Zimmerly,

Executive Minister, Formation & Pastoral Leadership

Korey Dyck,

Director, Mennonite Heritage Centre

Conrad Stoesz,

Archivist, Mennonite Heritage Centre

Ray Dirks,

Curator, Mennonite Heritage Centre Gallery Archives and Gallery

Connie Wiebe,

Administrative Assistant, Mennonite Heritage Centre & Gallery

Arlyn Friesen Epp,

CommonWord, Resource

Miriam Tshimanga Maenhout,

CommonWord, Administrative Assistant

(transitioning to Witness worker in South Africa, July, 2016)

Christian Formation Council members:

Lisa Carr-Pries (chair, General Board member) Ontario

Tom Yoder Neufeld, Ontario

David Driedger, Manitoba

Charlotte Bueckert, Saskatchewan

Adela Wedler, Alberta

Thank-you to Maria Wiens (British Columbia); Tracy Ewert Brown (Alberta) and Gabrielle Martin (Saskatchewan) who served in Council this past year before reductions needed to be made.

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

Benefits for Canadians

Is AMBS affordable for Canadians?

- A 50% tuition discount for all online classes is available for current students in a graduate program at Canadian Mennonite University or Conrad Grebel University College.
- A 50% tuition discount is available for the first online course for anyone not enrolled in a graduate program.
- Several special scholarship programs that are exclusively for Canadian students.
- Grants that match direct contributions received by students from congregations and other religious organizations.
- AMBS merit- and need-based scholarships cover up to 30%, 50% or even 100% of tuition.
- Canadian student loans administered by provincial governments are available.
- You can pay tuition in Canadian dollars and receive dollar-for-dollar credit in U.S. currency. You also may exchange up to \$1,200 Canadian dollars each semester at par with U.S. dollars to use for living expenses.

Thank you, Mennonite Church Canada

Gifts from members of Mennonite Church Canada to the AMBS annual fund from July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2015, totaled \$285,922.58 (Cdn; exchange rate as of June 30, 2015). Canadian donors contributed through Mennonite Church Canada or directly to the seminary; online donations in Canadian dollars are possible through the AMBS website. AMBS is recognized on Schedule VIII by Canada Revenue Agency, so gifts are tax deductible.



Andy Brubacher Kaethler, assistant professor of Christian formation and culture (From Ontario) and Allan Rudy-Froese, assistant professor of Christian proclamation (from Saskatchewan).

Volunteers from Canada enrich our learning community and provide invaluable assistance. Recent volunteers included Adolfo and Betty Puricelli, volunteer coordinators; Ed and Hedy Rempel; Alvin and Ruth Martin; John and Eleanor Woollard; George and Agnes Epp; Rick and June Friesen; Shirley Peters, and Gilbert E. Detillieux.

The AMBS Board includes four members from Mennonite Church Canada: Bruce Baergen, Edmonton, Alta. (chair); Terry Stefaniuk, Hague, Sask; Mark Tiessen-Dyck, Winnipeg, Man.; Gerda Krause, Vancouver, B.C.; and David Brubacher, Vineland, Ont.

AMBS serves Canada in ongoing ways

Canadian Mennonite University and AMBS continue to collaborate in publishing *Vision: A Journal for Church and Theology* twice each year with recent themes of Joy, Sabbath, and Technology. Read a sample article from each issue at mennovision.org.

Ken Hawkley serves as AMBS associate director of development, and Bob Rosa serves as AMBS admissions counselor for Canada. Both Ken and Bob connect Canadian congregations, individuals and area churches with the seminary.

The Church Leadership Center webinars

bring resources directly from AMBS to individuals and congregations. The annual Pastors Week provides opportunities for learning, reflection and fellowship; recordings of presentations and sermons are available from AMBS's iTunes U channel.

The Enrollment Department reports that our incoming class is the largest in six years, the percentage of students identified as Mennonite or related group remains stable at roughly 75%, and the number of Canadian students has increased from two to five.

More information

Website: www.ambs.ca

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/followAMBS

Recordings on iTunes U: www.ambs.ca/news-events/iTunesU.cfm

Twitter: [@followAMBS](https://twitter.com/followAMBS)

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary,
3003 Benham Avenue, Elkhart, Indiana
46517 574.295.3726

2015 – 2016 Fall Enrolment

645 students (75% Manitoba; 25% other provinces and International)

- **554** Undergraduate
- **41** Graduate
- **50** Outtatown
- **150** MC Canada students
 - **45%** of students from Mennonite / Anabaptist streams
 - **40%** ecumenically diverse
 - **15%** disclose no church connection
- **75%** (484) from Manitoba
- **25%** (161) other provinces and International
- **50** International students from **25** countries enrolled

CMU Alumni Serving the Church

Congregational Pastoral Leadership

85 MC Canada congregations are served by **109** CMU/CMBC/MBBC alumni (27 CMU, 77 CMBC, 5 MBBC)

- MC BC **7**: 2 CMU, 4 CMBC, 1 MBBC
- MC Alberta **4**: 4 CMBC
- MC SK **16**: 2 CMU, 12 CMBC, 2 MBBC
- MC MB **48**: 20 CMU, 28 CMBC
- MCEC **34**: 3 CMU, 29 CMBC, 2 MBBC

MC Canada Staff and Board

- **26**: 3 CMU, 22 CMBC, 1 MBBC

Area Conference Leaders

- **6**: 2 CMU, 4 CMBC

PUBLISHING

9 faculty published books this year

- *Believers' Church Commentary on Deuteronomy* – Dr. Gerald Gerbrandt
- *California Mennonites* – Dr. Brian Froese
- *The Outsiders' Gaze: Life and Labour on the Mennonite West Reserve 1874-1922* – Dr. Adolf Ens, ed.
- *James and Paul: The Politics of Identity at the Turn of the Ages* – Dr. George Shillington
- *Inner Peace Through Conflict Transformation* – Dr. Paul Redekop
- *Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding in Laos: Perspective for Today's World* – Dr. Stephanie Stobbe
- *Voices of Harmony & Dissent: How Peacebuilders are Changing Their Worlds* – Dr. Jarem Sawatsky & Valerie Smith, co-editors
- *Toward an Anabaptist Political Theology: Law, Order and Civil Society* – Dr. Paul Doerksen, ed.
- *The Collar: Reading Christian Ministry in Fiction, Television, and Film* – Dr. Sue Sorenson

Report from Canadian Mennonite University for Mennonite Church Canada

CMU is entrusted with its mission by the church, formally by the collaboration of Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Brethren peoples and extended through a wide ecumenical range of congregations who find resonance with Anabaptist commitments of faith and life.

NOURISHING A VISION FOR THE CHURCH

- CMU education is about vocation, the bringing together of student passions, convictions, faith and career paths together with the needs and opportunities of church and society. Through studies linking Biblical and Theological Studies with arts, sciences, Business, Communications, Music, Peace and Conflict Transformation Studies... students move towards lives of service as doctors, farmers, lawyers, pastors, teachers, business persons, social workers... and more... and carry with them an imagination for the church.
- In light of changes in MC Canada's structures, a large and vibrant group of CMU's MC Canada students met regularly as a group and with church leaders to engage with a vision for the future of the denomination.
- **Peter Epp** (MA student), reflects on his experience this way:
What passes the faith on to the next generation? Connections with Christ-following mentors. Experiences in communities that know what it is to live in the Spirit. Opportunities to ask the big questions about God—with those mentors in that kind of community. In short, the very ways we experience God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit in all their richness at places like CMU.

RESOURCING THE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

- **ReNew: Resourcing Pastors for Ministry:** From February 8-10, **69** MC Canada and Mennonite Brethren 'prairie pastors' met for 3 days focusing on the theme *Proclaiming the Good News* (Acts 8:35).
- **A Sampling of One and Two Week Courses offered Spring, 2016**
 - The Biblical Story of Hope and Healing – Dan Epp-Tiessen
 - Evangelical Theology – Paul Doerksen
 - Developing a Response to Dying Grief and Loss – Rod Buxton
 - Principles of Biblical Interpretation – Pierre Gilbert
 - Leadership and Management for the Common Good – G. Lehman
 - Reconciling Our Future: Stories of Kanata and Canada – Niigaanwewidam James Sinclair
- **Extending the Classroom:** In 15-16, '**Christian Spirituality**' and '**Old Testament Theology**' were **live-streamed**. Students from a wide variety of communities enrolled.
- **Indigenous Relations:** 18 students from Peguis First Nation lived on campus as part of a **10-month transition program** to focus on building their capacities for transition from high school to post-secondary education, from the reserve to an urban setting. CMU was a signatory, along with all other universities and colleges in Manitoba, to the **Manitoba Collaborative Indigenous Education Blueprint**. **Courses offered for 16-17** include, *Indigenous Peoples of Canada; Topics in English: North American Indigenous Literature; and History of Indigenous Peoples in Canada*.
- **Scientist in Residence:** Dr. Martin Entz, professor in the Department of Plant Science at the University of Manitoba, served as CMU's Scientist in Residence February 1-5, exploring the interplay of science and faith.
- **New in Fall 2016: Environmental Studies Major.** This 4-year interdisciplinary B.A. degree will explore economic, bio-physical, political, and private spheres for understanding environmental issues including climate, soil and water systems, nutrient cycles and ecology, along with creation stewardship and care.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2015

GREAT STUDENT LEADERS



For the first time ever, our full contingent of student leaders (over 40 students) met for a week of inspiration and training a week prior to the start of the Fall semester. This amazing group of men and women are united and excited about what God is doing in and through the Columbia student body.

NEW STAFF & FACULTY



Greg Thiessen
Metzger Collection
Manager



Jordan Rempel
Executive Chef



Melanie Olfert
Director of
Admissions



Laura Abraham
Financial Aid
Advisor



Darrin Derksen
Caregiving &
Counseling
Program Director



Elise Hartin
Caregiving &
Counseling Faculty



Jesse Nickel
Biblical Studies
Faculty starting in
Fall 2016

Completing
his PhD at
St. Andrew's
University in
Scotland.

PRESIDENT'S NOTE: CULTIVATING A KINGDOM OF GOD VISION

At the center of our Vision 2020 document is the following statement regarding Columbia's theological trajectory:



Bryan Born

“Create a culture that inspires passionate commitment to follow Christ, engagement in Christian community and participation in God’s Kingdom vision and values for the world (evangelism, justice, love, and righteousness).”

This kind of education must be holistic in its scope – focused on impacting heart, soul, mind and body. Formal academic study is vital, but it must be combined with opportunities for experiential learning. Worship in close Christian community is truly faith-building, but our faith needs expression through evangelism, mission and service. Focused study of biblical texts is important in and of itself, but we must also seek to integrate our faith into every aspect of life, including career preparation. Columbia seeks to prepare the whole person so that “God’s Kingdom will come, and his will is done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

ENROLLMENT IS STEADY



FALL 2015 ENROLLMENT:

177 New Students
206 Continuing
22 Re-entry
406 Total Students



FALL 2014 ENROLLMENT:

172 New Students
212 Continuing
21 Re-entry
405 Total Students



PROGRAMS:

54% BA
15% Diploma
27% Certificate
4% Undeclared



CAMPUS LIFE:

48% Residents
48% Commuters
4% On Internships

NEW ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIPS

35
AWARDED

\$1000-
2000
EACH

3.0+
GPA



Greetings to our wider church constituency from Conrad Grebel University College in Waterloo Ontario where our mission is *"to seek wisdom, nurture faith and pursue justice and peace in service to church and society."*

"Extending the Grebel Table" – Strategic Visioning 2015-2020

As we enter our 6th decade, the board has launched an exciting and bold vision and direction for the College with a new [strategic plan](#) to take us to 2020. Called, "Extending the Grebel Table," the plan builds on the Mennonite heritage of food and fellowship and captures the spirit of the round tables in our dining hall and weekly community suppers. The "menu" has been prepared and we are already "setting the table" and "inviting the guests" to advance more than a dozen initiatives that reach our Mennonite communities across Canada.

Programmatically, our table is being extended to the community through a partnership with Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, as Grebel delivers an innovative program called the Anabaptist Learning Workshop (ALW); a certificate program supported by MCEC Legacy funds and designated for lay church leaders, bi-vocational pastors, new Anabaptists and those for whom English is a second language.

Our Graduate program in Theological Studies (MTS) continues to grow. As part of our Strategic Plan we are adding a full-time faculty position in Practical Theology for fall 2016. We have 26 active students in our MTS program and 35 in our Master of Peace and Conflict Studies (MPACS). Our graduates make an impact in a variety of ways, including in pastoral leadership and in the last number of years Grebel has produced most of the new credentialed pastors in Mennonite Church Canada.

Our new facility offers many spaces and more resources in which to "extend our table." Laureen Harder-Gissing is our Archivist/Librarian at the Mennonite Archives of Ontario and the Milton Good Library. She and her staff provide support for researchers and community members interested in Mennonite history and culture. Recently, an exhibit celebrating the 70th anniversary of Conscientious Objection in Canada created additional interest in our peace church tradition.



CGUC student Meghan Wiens

The MSCU Centre for Peace Advancement, directed by Paul Heidebrecht, includes The Frank and Helen Epp Peace Incubator for individuals and start-ups concentrating on peace building. This space also includes the Grebel Gallery, a place for art exhibits focusing on themes of peace.

Grebel students come to us from around the world and across Canada. Meghan Wiens, (left) from Herschel SK, says, "the Grebel community has given me a home away from home." Our students extend hospitality by sponsoring refugee students each year. This year our Student Services department worked with 343 students who live both on and off the University of Waterloo campus – 40% of these are Mennonite.

Our teaching in the Faculty of Arts has increased this year to a total course enrolment of 3799 (from 3476 last year). Music comprises much of this total (1601) and Peace & Conflict Studies a close second (1352).

Nine of our 17 board members are placed by MCEC and we have used the flexibility of the 'at large' appointments to include Dr. Geraldine Balzer from Saskatchewan who serves as Chair.

In gratitude,

Susan Schultz Huxman, Ph.D.
President, Conrad Grebel University College
University of Waterloo - uwaterloo.ca/grebel



RJC choir at Menno Simons Christian School

Canadian Association of Mennonite Schools

CAMS is an association of 10 Anabaptist, Mennonite Christian schools from Kitchener-Waterloo, ON in the east to Abbotsford, BC in the west. In each case, CAMS schools are intimately linked with Mennonite churches in various Area Churches which form the "ownership" society of support and enrolment. CAMS schools seek to be greenhouses of faith, service and life for the church and the world.

CAMS schools include:

- Rockway Mennonite Collegiate (ON)
- United Mennonite Education Institute (ON)
- Steinbach Christian School (MB)
- Mennonite Brethren Collegiate Institute (MB)
- Westgate Mennonite Collegiate (MB)
- Winnipeg Mennonite Elementary & Middle School (MB)
- Mennonite Collegiate Institute (MB)
- Rosthern Junior College (SK)
- Menno Simons School (AB)
- Mennonite Education Institute (BC)

Each school is a unique expression of Mennonite peoples' desire to nurture wholeness in young people through education. We hold that education is whole when it integrates body, mind, spirit and soul, just as in Him all things hold together (Col 1:17).

In February 2015 educators gathered for a faculty conference featuring John D. Roth (Goshen College), author of *Teaching That Transforms: Why Anabaptist-Mennonite Education Matters*. In John's keynote presentations we were reminded of the great calling which is the Anabaptist school, and of the 'invisible curriculum' in the classroom, hallway, playing field and buses which lead to deeper relationships with each other and our God.

Administrators continue to meet semi-annually around sharing and learning sessions which encourage school leadership and advance our professional work. Recent meetings have focused on project-based learning initiatives as well as care for student on the margins of (our school) communities.

Another music festival is in the works for 2017. This time we gather in Winnipeg, where Westgate will serve as hosts for rehearsals and a grand concert of high school music. Look for your invitation to attend this event in May, 2017.

Darryl Loewen
Chair, Canadian Association of Mennonite Schools



Mennonite Camping Association (MCA) continues to be blessed by its affiliation with Mennonite Church Canada. Our camps continue to be places of spiritual formation for young and old alike. In these dynamic times, it's good to have some things that don't change. God's word, God's creation, God's people, and God's Holy Spirit are all coming together to create an atmosphere of fellowship, growth and renewal.

In 2015, our Eastern Regional gathering was held at Highland Retreat in Bergton, Virginia. Peter Eberly of Eastside Church in Harrisonburg, Virginia was the keynote speaker and Mike Shenk of the band, Tide Spring, provided worship with a refreshing bluegrass style. Our West/Midwest gathering was held at Camp Amigo in Sturgis Michigan. Chuck Neufeld, Conference Minister of Illinois Mennonite Conference was the keynote speaker. His presentation was entitled *Soul Care as Preoccupation*, in which he implored participants to tend to the soul's needs, while Luke Gascho, Director of the Mary Lea Environmental Learning Center in Wolf Lake IN, shared his personal story of discovery entitled *Beauty, Boundaries, Loss and Regeneration*.

This year's Bi-National gathering will be held at Laurelville Mennonite Church Center in Mount Pleasant, Pennsylvania. Keynote speaker, Leonard Dow of *Oxford Circle Mennonite Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania* will speak on the theme *Getting Your Rhythm Back* by examining the surprisingly unhurried life of Jesus as presented in Alan Fadling's book, "An Unhurried Life: Following Jesus' Rhythms of Work and Rest."

MCA camps continue to be instrumental in leadership development. In a recent MCA newsletter, Annette Brill Bergstresser highlights the fact that 10 of the 33 first-year students at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana, have a background as staff members at Mennonite camps and retreat centers. One student she describes is Lee Hiebert:

Hiebert counseled for five summers at Camp Valaqua in Water Valley, Alberta, and for two summers at two of the Camps with Meaning in Manitoba. He said camp was where he first began to understand the importance of Christian community. "It was where — with the guidance of those ministering around me — I first experienced my gifts being discerned," he reflected. "My time at camp was when I realized how important the community that surrounded me really was and that, if I wanted to pursue ministry, I needed to seek out a place that would help to shape me for this purpose."

So, while camps are places of rest and renewal, they are also places where young and old alike gain new insight into how they can become active in God's work in the world. We look forward to seeing you at one of our ministries in the near future.

Bob Briscoe, Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center, Toano, Virginia
Incoming President, on behalf of
Mennonite Camping Association

Herald Press news

Herald Press, the trade book imprint of MennoMedia, was pleased to collaborate with author Sam Steiner of Ontario this past year to publish *In Search of Promised Lands*, an 800+ page history of Mennonites and Amish in Ontario. The story tells of a diverse group of sojourners—from the early trek by Conestoga wagon of Pennsylvania Mennonites, to 21st century Latino and Asian immigrants and refugees—who all sought promises of faithful living, peaceful living and religious freedom.

Canadian partnerships and news

We are also working in partnership with Canadian Mennonites to update the textbook *Anabaptist History, A Survey of the Global Movement from the Radical Reformation to Today*, by Troy Osborne which will be published in spring 2017. We are also working on an expanded version of *What is an Anabaptist Christian* by Palmer Becker, for release in spring 2017.

Other Herald Press titles to be released in the next twelve months include projects with Anabaptist cousins. In August we will release a devotional, *Bread for the Journey*, by the bestselling group of women who brought us *Mennonite Girls Can Cook*. This coincides with the run of a play by the same name that begins in September in Shipshewana, Indiana, and Sugar Creek, Ohio. In 2017 we will produce the first of several books with Bruxey Cavey, of the "Meeting House," a satellite/mega church in Ontario, affiliated with the Brethren in Christ. The author was a speaker last July at the Mennonite World Conference in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Shine

Shine, our children's Sunday school curriculum is now in its second year. We are pleased with the continued use of this material, both in Canada and the U.S. We thank the donors, product development team and churches who have collaborated to make this a success.

Resource Samplers

Resource Samplers are a new kind of lending library from MennoMedia and Herald Press, designed to help church customers make curriculum choices. We offer five types of Samplers, with each one containing five to six titles for Sunday school classes and small groups to sample, free of charge, for up to 60 days. Resource Samplers are available from our customer service department (800-245-7894).

Plans for a new song collection

Mennonites sing together as a way to express our faith. This past year, a team from MennoMedia, Mennonite Church Canada, and Mennonite Church USA planted seeds for a new song collection to be released in 2020. We hope it will be more than a printed hymnal, including electronic versions and other supporting products. We are in the process of appointing a 10 to 12 member song collection committee and hiring a project director to oversee the process. We are eager to see this new song collection serve and nurture Anabaptist Mennonite believers as well as shape our common identity as followers of Jesus. Mennonite Church Canada has two members on the steering committee (Karen Martens Zimmerly and Irma Fast Dueck) and we hope there will be strong participation among Canadians in the development of this significant resource for the next generation. The project also offers opportunities for individuals, congregations and small groups to make donations towards this huge endeavor. We appreciate your support.

Strategic planning

As we look toward the future, we continue to focus our energy around the following strategic initiatives:

1. Developing Herald Press as a major income source for MennoMedia, given its wider potential market in the book trade.
2. Becoming more innovative in process and more technologically adept. This includes broadening the capacity and skill of either existing or new staff members.
3. Finding wider markets for the *Shine* curriculum with the goal of making it a sustainable, long-term product.
4. Creating and publishing a new song collection for Mennonite congregations in North America, in partnership with Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada.
5. Becoming a publisher of a significant number of Spanish-language materials. This may include publishing books simultaneously in English and Spanish as well as acquiring the Spanish-language publishing rights to books by other North American publishers.

Board members

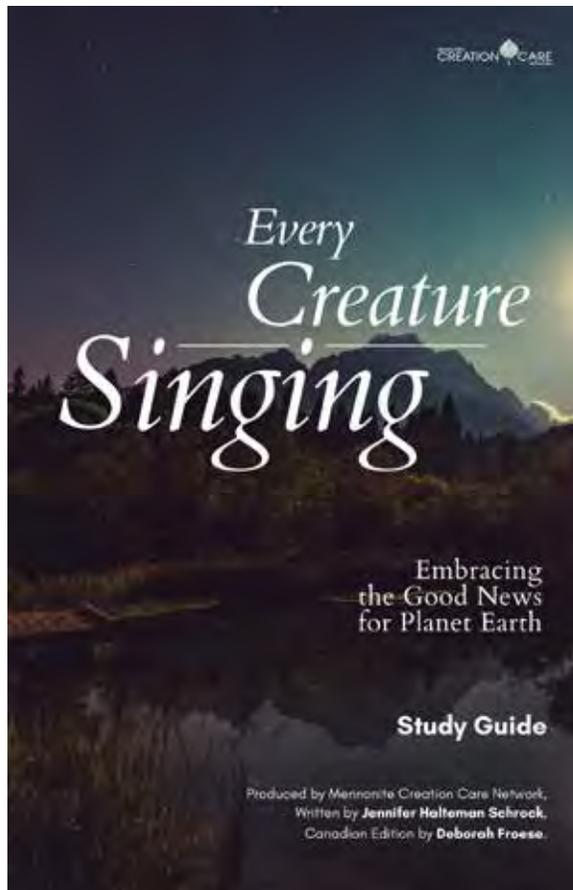
We appreciate greatly the contributions of our Canadian Board members: Iris Leung, from Vancouver, Melissa Miller, from Winnipeg; and Chris Steingart, from Kitchener.

Council Meetings

We held a face-to-face meeting on March 13-14, 2015, Goshen, IN, and two virtual meetings by conference call on January 22 and September 10, 2015.

Mennonite Church Conference Activities:

- *MC USA Convention in Kansas City:* Several council members attended and delivered workshops on climate change, green youth group activities, sustainable living, green building and watershed discipleship. They also provided a display booth.
- *Mennonite World Conference:* Several council members attended, providing a display and delivering three workshops. They also contributed to greening the gathering.
- *Climate Change Working Group:* In response to the 2014 Climate Change Resolution, Mennonite Church Canada formed a working group to consider steps that can be taken to address climate change by the church body, focusing specifically on financial measures such as divestment. The group is chaired by Randy Haluza-DeLay. Joanne Moyer and Mike Currie (MCCN) are also involved. They met in Edmonton on September 25-26, and are preparing a report for the Assembly in Saskatoon.



and participated in some promotional events.

- *Watershed Way:* MCCN member Todd Wynward of Taos, NM, was licensed for watershed discipleship ministry by the Western District of MC USA. He also published a book entitled, *Rewilding the Way: Break Free to Follow an Untamed God*.
- Luke Gascho and Jennifer Schrock attended the Rooted and Grounded conference at AMBS and took a booth there.

Curriculum:

- With funding from MCC Canada, Mennonite Church Canada contracted Deborah Froese to create a Canadian version of *Every Creature Singing*. MCCN and Mennonite Church Canada are working to have it ready to launch at the Assembly in Saskatoon in July 2016.
- At least 36 congregations used the *Every Creature Singing* curriculum in 2015. Of those, 27 were from Mennonite Church Canada or MC USA. The curriculum is also being used by other Mennonite groups: Evangelicals, Methodists, Disciples of Christ, and an order of Catholic nuns, and churches in England, El Salvador and the Philippines.
- *Every Creature Singing* was featured in *Toolkit*, a popular news digest put out by Everence.

E-Newsletter and Website:

MCCN continued to publish its monthly E-newsletter and maintain a website.

Network Building:

- MCCN added over 100 new members mostly through workshops at the MC USA convention and Mennonite World Conference.
- *Connections with Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery (DDoD):* Based on mutual concerns in the areas of environmental justice and care for the earth, MCCN provided support for this new Anabaptist movement concerned with contemporary indigenous land rights and the ways Mennonites benefitted from injustices against native peoples historically. MCCN raised awareness about a film the group was preparing for MC USA, provided a channel for donations,

Christian Witness Council Core Activities:

Mennonite Church Canada bylaws state that “The core activities of the Christian Witness Council shall focus on ministry together with Area Churches and their constituent congregations including, but not limited to:

- a. evangelism and church planting;
- b. international ministries;
- c. multicultural ministries;
- d. Indigenous ministries;
- e. peace and justice advocacy; and
- f. service ministries.”¹

Witness Budgets:²

Fiscal Year Ending 2015 (Net): \$1,450,534

Fiscal Year Ending 2016 (Net): \$1,450,534

Fiscal Year Ending 2017 (Net): \$1,250,534

GREETINGS

We are pleased to report to you on the work that has been done in our international ministries and Indigenous relations since our last Assembly in 2014.

Each year, some Witness Workers share about their ministries in congregations. In 2015, these included Nathan & Taryn Dirks (Botswana), Lillian and Norm Nicolson (Burkina Faso), Jeanette & Todd Hanson (China), George & Tobia Veith (China), and Christina & Darnell Barkman (Philippines). We will also have a number of Witness Workers present at this Assembly.

Our international workers serve on all the major continents and in diverse contexts from post modern to tribal. Some contexts are experiencing significant changes and others increasing conflict. We continue to receive more international invitations for ministry partnerships than we are able to accept. In 2015 alone we recorded 34 requests from 32 countries, accepted 8, and 7 remain in various stages of assessment, in addition to our ongoing ministry commitments.

Here in Canada, we continue to build and nurture ‘decolonizing’ conversations in our congregations and build respectful relationships with Indigenous peoples across the country. This has resulted in a growing interest and engagement in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) process in Canada, and growing relationships in a variety of territories and provinces with Indigenous leaders and communities.

¹ Witness staff and budget are limited to international ministries and Indigenous relations.

² Since moving to an every-other-year assembly pattern, this report documents activity highlights from post-Assembly 2014 through January 31, 2016.

INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

The following is a summary of Witness international ministries done in conjunction with short and long term Witness workers and international ministry partners:

Africa



Botswana: *Nathan and Taryn Dirks* are in their second term of service, now joined by their infant son, Malakai. The Dirks’ work among several African Initiated Churches (AICs) mentoring and developing young adult leaders through Bible study, prison and community ministries.



Burkina Faso: *Lillian & Norm Nicolson* continue the long term work of Bible translation into the Siamou language. With more Bible stories translated, Bible studies are emerging, Nancy Frey and Bruce Yoder support the leadership of Ouagadougou

Mennonite congregation and the Burkina Mennonite Church (EEMBF). Hannah Thiessen has joined the Nicolson family for a short term to help with homeschooling responsibilities. Mennonite congregations and our workers are safe despite some insurgent attacks early in 2016.

D.R. Congo: Entrepreneurship training coupled with a micro-credit program in the Kasai province of Congo is a formula that stirs a new imagination for self reliance among Mennonite church members here. Where there are lending institutions, we do not offer micro-credit, but where funding for small entrepreneurs is scarce or nonexistent, we help congregations start a micro-loan organization. We do this work together with the Communauté Mennonite au Congo (CMCo), Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission (AIMM), and Mennonite Mission Network (MMN). In May 2015, 92 men and women from CMCo received micro loans in the city of Tshikapa. A local administration committee provides follow-up support for loan recipients and advocates for timely repayment.

Together with AIMM and MMN, we also fund the ministry of Charles Buller who works with the leadership of CMCo in the ongoing leadership development of pastors.

Ethiopia: Our connections with Meserete Kristos College and Meserete Kristos Church – the largest Anabaptist church body in the world – are growing. In partnership with Meserete Kristos College Link Canada, significant support has been raised to

*Witness Workers and Partners that will be present at the Assembly.

provide scholarships for dozens of future church leaders and also to construct a women's dormitory. Church leaders have asked for help in terms of capacity building for entrepreneurship and agricultural development.



South Africa: *Andrew and Karen Suderman*, current workers in South Africa, have been strengthening the ministry of the Anabaptist Network in South Africa (ANISA), building connections across the geographic, ethnic and Christian landscape across South Africa.

Andrew and Karen have also worked at developing future leaders in ANISA, including the initiative to have Mzwandile (Mzi) Nkutha study at AMBS. Andrew also serves as Secretary of the Peace Commission of Mennonite World Conference. Sudermans will be concluding their service in South Africa in 2016.



The Grace Community Church (GCC) congregations of South Africa, a member of Mennonite World Conference, have been exploring their need for assistance with leadership development and Anabaptist faith formation. *Hippolyto and Miriam Tshimanga* and their

family will be relocating to Bloemfontein, South Africa, in 2016 to take up this ministry on a part time basis while Hippo remains as Director of Africa and Latin American ministries, also on a part-time basis. GCC is a life-giving ministry in an area of economic depression dominated by large sheep farms. White farmers, who run these sheep farms, employ large numbers of non-white workers. GCC's work of sharing the good news with the farmers has helped to improve relations between the workers and the farmers on a number of farms. This ministry is also a significant factor in improving family life, bettering economic conditions, and diminishing alcoholism in farm worker communities. These farm worker communities have produced evangelists who now serve in non-farm worker communities. GCC is also interested in economic development in an area that is very depressed economically for the coloured and black majority. GCC has a number of congregations scattered around the province of Northern Cape.

Asia and Middle East

China: The Christian church in China is growing at a substantial rate, despite increasing tensions between religious groups and government. As a member body of Mennonite Partners in China, a consortium of Mennonite organizations with over 35 years of experience in China, Mennonite Church Canada is helping to strengthen Chinese churches in China.



Todd & Jeanette Hanson* returned from China in early July, 2015, after 24 years of China related ministry. Jeanette continues a Canada-based China ministry, in response to an invitation from China ministry partners who are seeking partnership with Mennonites

in Canada and the US. Todd has been serving in a contract assignment with Mennonite Partners in China in partnership with Mennonite Church Canada, and this will conclude summer 2016.



George & Tobia Veith* have relocated to northeast China, where they have been warmly welcomed by the local church community as they adjust to language and cultural differences. Through relationships and teaching, George and Tobia are resourcing

congregational leaders and pastors. In 2015 George was awarded a Doctor of Missiology (D.Miss.) degree from Fuller Seminary.

South Korea: After years of networking, study and joint activities, four Anabaptist congregations in South Korea formed Mennonite Church South Korea in February of this year.



Bock Ki Kim and Sook Kyoung Park* are publishing the quarterly *Korea Anabaptist Journal*, four books through *Korea Anabaptist Press*, developing a Korean language Sunday School curriculum, leading Korea Anabaptist Fellowship (KAF) youth camp,

and visiting and networking among KAF churches. *Sook Kyoung Park* has started an after-school English tutoring service for children to provide supplemental income and enable her and Bock Ki to continue their ministry work long term.

*Witness Workers and Partners that will be present at the Assembly.

Palestine-Israel: Due to visa restrictions, we continue to work with partners in Palestine-Israel through short term worker placements. *Henry & Erna Funk** recently completed their second assignment with Serve Nazareth, and *Byron* and Melita Rempel Burkholder* served with Bethlehem Bible College (BBC).



Philippines: After a time of itineration in Canada in 2015, *Darnell & Christina Barkman* returned to Manila to continue to work with Peace Church and the Philippines Anabaptist Network (PAN). They focus on working with leaders, developing partnerships, sharing resources, and strategizing for ongoing local and network ministry.



Dann and Joji Pantoja* continue to focus on establishing a national network of Peace and Reconciliation (PAR) communities through its Philippine ground presence as PBCI (PeaceBuilders Community Inc). This vision – to have a PAR community in each of the country’s 80 provinces by

the end of 2020 – has been adopted by the Philippines Council of Evangelical Churches’ (PCEC) PAR Commission. Twenty-six PAR Teams have been established so far. Joji has taken on much of the administration of PBCI with oversight of staff and finance in addition to her role as President of Coffee for Peace (CFP). In 2015, CFP received wide recognition, winning second prize in a national business competition called Developmental Social Enterprise Award-Solution for Social Change, as well as the N-Peace Award from the United Nations Development Program – Impact Investment Exchange Asia (UNDP-IIXAsia) on behalf of the women who comprise 80 percent of the farming farmers of CFP. CFP trains marginalized and vulnerable indigenous coffee farmers in sustainable production and fair trade negotiation techniques. A portion of CFP profits also fund PBCI ministry.

In July 2015, Joji was named Chairperson of the Mennonite World Conference Peace Commission.



Thailand: *Tom and Christine Poovong** continue their church planting ministry at Maliwan Mennonite Church in Khon Kaen city. Weekly church attendance is 45 persons – 35 adults and 10 children. The Poovongs have attracted a core of committed

members who serve as church leaders and outreach team. Tom’s work includes developing business opportunities for poorer people with unstable jobs. Menno Nursery, which launched in December 2014, is being relocated to the Maliwan Church from its current location in another neighborhood in hopes to build connections with the surrounding community. Tom and Christine are seeking a short term ministry worker to help with Menno Nursery.

After 15 years of supporting the Living Water Church in Borabu, Witness financial support for this congregation will wind down after the current fiscal year. Former Witness workers Pat & Rad Houmphan still live in Borabu and remain connected to the Anabaptist network of churches and mission workers in Thailand.



Vietnam: The unregistered Evangelical Mennonite Church of Vietnam (EMCVN) has reduced its programming during a time of government-church political turmoil. Witness worker *Nhien Pham* has been a pivotal person communicating with EMCVN leaders throughout

these turbulent months. Witness partners closely with the North American Vietnamese Mennonite Fellowship (NAVVF) in working together with the EMCVN, the Vietnam Mennonite Church (VMC) – a registered church – and the growing Vietnamese Mennonite churches in Cambodia.



Cambodia: Mennonite Church Canada has adopted Cambodia as a new country of ministry, in recognition of ties made through our congregations. In partnership with the **North American Vietnamese Fellowship**, *Thanh Pham* has been appointed to work with the Vietnamese

Mennonite Church in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Thanh will serve as assistant pastor in the Phnom Penh Mennonite congregation for at least two years. Thanh’s presence allows Pastor *Khanh Pham* to devote more time to planting a new congregation near Kratie. Upon the invitation of *Nhien Pham*, Khanh planted the Phnom Penh congregation in 2007. In 2014, Khanh was ordained by Mennonite Church British Columbia.

*Witness Workers and Partners that will be present at the Assembly.

Europe

France: Due to budget reductions in FYE17, we have discontinued our search for a bi-vocational couple for ministry in France. Unfortunately, we will not be able to respond to this invitation for ministry partnership from the Mennonite Church in France.



Germany: *Gregory Rabus** and *Jennifer Otto** have begun their church planting ministry in the urban area of Mannheim-Ludwigshafen. Their ministry will focus on developing "Das Friedenshaus," (Peace House) in a new partnership with the Arbeitsgemeinschaft

Südwestdeutscher Mennonitengemeinden (ASM) and the local Ludwigshafen Mennonite congregation. By building community and learning peace, they are engaging in outreach to a diverse working class community that includes a growing number of Syrian and Afghani refugees.

Switzerland: After years of dialogue with the Swiss Mennonite Mission, they announced a new outreach in Geneva. Claude and Elisabeth Baecher have opened a space to share Anabaptist spirituality and create relationships with openness to become a church plant. Witness was invited to partner in making a modest financial contribution to the Geneva project.

Ukraine: Witness continues to support the Zaporozhye Evangelical Mennonite Church, the ministry of Sergey & Lena Deynekin* near Kherson, and Mary Raber, a partner through Mennonite Mission Network, teaching ministry at a seminary in Odessa.



United Kingdom (UK): Christian church ministry is an extremely challenging proposition in the post-Christendom, post-modern society of the UK. *Mike Nimz** is in his third year as Witness Partner together with his wife *Cheryl**, who is volunteering

with the Anabaptist Network. They serve with the Mennonite Trust and the Anabaptist Network in the UK. Their task can be best described as networking and engaging people. The Nimz's engage a wide variety of individuals and faith communities and have given time to and broadened the relationships within the Network. Many of these groups involve people on the margins of church, people with doubts and questions, for whom the

Anabaptist tradition offers fresh perspectives and hope. The Nimzes have been invited to continue this work with the Network. Stuart Murray Williams, chair of the Mennonite Trust, who visited Mennonite congregations across Canada for 2 weeks in April, and strengthened our ongoing partnership by sharing stories and learnings from the UK context.

Latin America

Colombia: After experimenting with fish ponds and modest trials planting mushrooms, the Colombia Mennonite Church is enthused to continue with its entrepreneurial program. Witness Worker Tom Roes delivered small business start-up training for participants from various church regions. The church's retreat centre is now enlarging its fish ponds after successfully using homegrown fish to feed participants during its last annual General Assembly. Our plan is to engage the largest possible number of people in income generation so that they can become self-supporting churches. We also sent Jack and Irene Suderman to Colombia to represent Mennonite Church Canada at the 25th anniversary of the Colombia Mennonite Church's Seminary. Mennonite Church Canada, through Jack and Irene Suderman and Rudy and Helen Baergen, have played a significant role in the seminary since its inception.



Gamaliel and Amanda Falla continue to serve the Colombian Mennonite Church in a part-time role as pastor to pastors. Traveling to each of the 4 regions of the national church, Gamaliel and Amanda offer accompaniment, encouragement, training and support to pastors

and their families in a wide variety of often challenging contexts.

The Fallas are partners through Mennonite Mission Network.

Cuba: The Mennonite Church in Cuba is also working at promoting small business development. It has granted microloans to seven individuals for their entrepreneurial activities, with modest funding assistance from Mennonite Church Canada. Witness partners with micro-credit initiatives from our church partners only in places where no such option currently exists.

Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay & Uruguay: To meet budget expectations moving forward, Witness will be reducing or eliminating funding to a number of partner program ministries where we have no workers assigned. These reductions will take place over a two year period. More detail is provided in the

*Witness Workers and Partners that will be present at the Assembly.

proposed budget report in the Discernment Guide and will be offered during the business sessions of Assembly 2016.

A brief history of international workers since 2004. The numbers include long- and short-term workers, and workers we jointly support with partners:

Year	Total workers
2004	101
2005	97
2006	99
2007*	73
2008	74
2009	70
2010	71
2011*	45
2012	40
2013	69
2014	51
2015	42
2016	39

* Significant changes in these years were as a result of administrative re-alignment with partner ministries with Mennonite Mission Network.

A look at the number of ministry partnership locations since 2004:

Year	Number of Countries
2004	40
2005	37
2006	37
2007	31
2008	32
2009	27
2010	27
2011	26
2012	25
2013	25
2014	26
2015	26
2016	22

INDIGENOUS RELATIONS

“You need to indigenize yourselves.” It was a word from *Gkisedtanamoogk*, a Wabanaki elder speaking to colleagues in a social justice circle. “*Indigenize yourselves.*” It was an imperative that made people anxious. *Indigenize ourselves?* The fear of appropriation – we once ignored and despised their knowledge, now we embrace and take – runs deep. Yet this elder knew what he was saying. To live well with host peoples and lands, Settler society needs to engage the knowledge of Indigenous peoples, knowledges that have been in these lands for millennia. We must open hearts and hands to these gifts...and indigenize ourselves. “For centuries,” write Emma Lowman and Adam Barker, “Indigenous people have had to learn to understand how Settler people think and know the world as a matter of survival.” And now the time has come for the guests to do what we always should have done: respect, reciprocate, and rejoice as we “take up the responsibility of learning about... the worldviews of the specific peoples on whose lands Settlers live.”

Indigenizing ourselves does not mean that we Settlers give up our identity. It does not mean that we cease being Christian. It means curious wrestling with and celebration of knowledges that have been in these lands for thousands of years. Imagine if many of us took up the challenge. Imagine the kinds of respectful relationships that could be formed.

In June, 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) on Indian Residential Schools concluded its mandate and released *94 Calls to Action*; 94 ways in which a variety of communities, governments and institutions must engage the work of healing and justice. There are a cluster of *Calls to Action* that specifically speak to the church. Some offer a challenge to the work of the Indigenous Relations ministry of Mennonite Church Canada Witness, inviting us to pursue paths that we currently are not walking. Yet overall, the *Calls* offer us significant encouragement, for it can be said with integrity that Mennonite Church Canada is faithfully engaging many of these concerns, despite a limited budget and staff capacity.

Speaking to Steve Heinrichs, Director, Indigenous Relations, a respected Indigenous leader recently said, “Mennonite Church Canada is one of the principal leaders in these conversations between Indigenous and Settler Christian communities.” Steve is reluctant to embrace this assessment. But his prayer, and our prayer is that our church would grow along with fellow faith communities to embody a deep and costly commitment to reconciliation with host peoples.

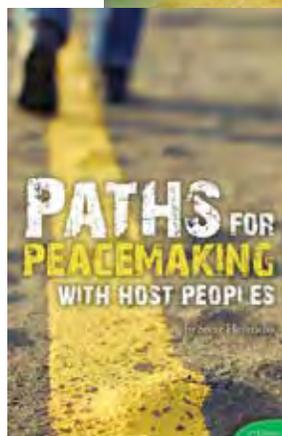
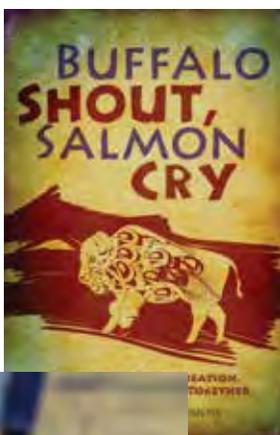
What follows are some of the ways that Witness, Indigenous Relations, on behalf of our national church family, is at work in responding to what we have learned over the six year period of

the TRC. There are many more plans for activities in the works as we strive for just and right relations with host peoples.



Native Assembly 2014: Following on the heels of our national church family's last Assembly in 2014 was the Native Mennonite Assembly (July 28-31), a Canada/US event hosted by Mennonite Church Canada and the Partnership Circle of Mennonite Church Manitoba. The event was a stellar success. Three-and-one-half days of outdoor worship, workshops, learning tours, food and fellowship, on the campus of Canadian Mennonite University, drew 240 people from thirteen First Nations communities across eight states, five provinces and seven denominations. Eighty volunteers helped with a variety of tasks to make this event flow smoothly. The theme was "Ears to Earth, Eyes to God" based on the ever relevant wisdom of Job (12:7-10).

Educational Resources: Former TRC Commissioner, Senator Murray Sinclair has often said that "Education is what got us here, and education is what will get us out." As part of our ongoing efforts to learn more about Indigenous peoples, settler-colonialism, and the wounded relationship with the church, Witness has produced a number of educational resources. The book *Buffalo Shout, Salmon Cry* (2013) and booklet *Paths for Peace Making* (2014) are in multiple print runs. *Buffalo Shout, Salmon Cry* (2013), has been well received in both settler and Indigenous circles because it created



respectful space for both traditional Indigenous and Christian views, and because it courageously engaged the church's complicity in the settler-colonial project. The book continues to be used as a resource by seminaries, church groups, the North American Indigenous Institute for Theological Studies, and many more (e.g., it was recently recommended by social work groups in northern Manitoba).

Paths for Peacemaking (2014) is a downloadable booklet that assists congregations and individuals in taking practical steps to deepen their understanding and assist in developing respectful relationships. *Paths* was adapted and re-issued in 2016 by KAIROS Canada to an even larger reading audience.

Witness collaborated with the publishers of *Geez Magazine* to produce an issue on *Decolonization* (Fall, 2015) that grapples with both concerns named above. This issue, co-edited by Steve Heinrichs and Leah Gazan (Lakota), has sold more than 2000 copies.

United Nations Declaration On The Rights Of Indigenous People: The TRC's Call to Action #48 asks "all faith groups and interfaith social justice groups in Canada... to formally adopt and comply with the principles, norms, and standards of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a framework for reconciliation." Moreover, they have asked for a statement from "all religious denominations" as to how they will implement the *Declaration* by March 31, 2016.

In response to this call, Witness has just published *Wrongs to Rights: How Churches can Engage the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. This special 160 page edition of *Intotemak* draws on over 40 thinkers and authors from diverse backgrounds – Indigenous and Settler, Christian and Traditional – helping us wrestle with the meaning of the *Declaration* for the Church. It is already in its second printing. (See www.commonword.ca/go/507).

Future resources include the publication of *The Harmony Tree*, a children's book that explores the impact of colonization on both Indigenous and settler communities. Witness has also signed a covenant with the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba on a new book project which will bring diverse religious communities together with Indigenous conversation partners to explore "Why Treaties Matter?" to their faiths/practices, and how we can all learn from one another.

Intotemak, our quarterly magazine, continues to facilitate awareness, action and relationship with over 1000 subscribers.

“Sixties Scoop”: Tens of thousands of First Nations, Métis and Inuit children were taken from their birth families in the 1960s, '70s and early '80s and put into the care of non-indigenous families as part of the Canadian government's strategy of assimilation. This is commonly referred to as the “sixties scoop.” Witness attended the “60s Scoop” Apology delivered by the Province of Manitoba in June, 2015. Witness brought together a few “Scoop” survivors to have a series of conversations with Josiah Neufeld, regional reporter for the *Canadian Mennonite*, resulting in a story on September 9, 2015, to help raise awareness of the Scoop and nurture a larger conversation (see <http://tinyurl.com/jk7fjw7>). A small circle has met, including “Scoop” survivors and Mennonite parents who adopted during the Scoop to explore potential next steps. We are not sure, at this time, where this may lead.

Education and Equity: Indigenous children living on reserve have received far less money for education than children attending provincial schools; the gap is significant, somewhere between \$2000-3000 per student/year. Witness participates in an ecumenical and Indigenous advocacy group to advance potential actions that engage the Federal government. This work was put on hold due to changes in both the Federal government and the Assembly of First Nations.

Language and Culture: Indigenous languages embody ways of life and understandings of the world that are both steeped in millennia old wisdoms and creatively engage with present-day realities. Language is a critical identity piece. Witness has begun to explore with CMU and other Mennonite Church Canada related schools the possibility of creating an Indigenous language program for credit to honour our Treaty relationships and the commitment (as expressed in Treaty 3) to learn about one another. A starting point is for all Mennonite church groups who are currently engaged in relationship with local First Nations to learn the basics (greetings, terms of deference, thank yous, etc.) of the host language to honour the importance of language revitalization.

Health and Justice: A repeated concern of the TRC recommendations is that Settler society finds ways to recognize, honour, and respectfully engage Indigenous healing/ceremonial practices. These calls have relevance to the many pastors in our Mennonite community who do chaplaincy work in hospitals, homes, halfway houses and prisons. Over the last number of years, Witness has participated in and invited our constituency to join the annual Sisters in Spirit gatherings/vigils for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (every October 4th and February 14th). It is a small but important sign of our support for families who are grieving, and it helps call the Federal government to

account/engagement. A few congregations have significant numbers coming out in attendance. *Intotemak*, our quarterly magazine has consistently raised the issue, and will continue to do so. Leah Gazan, Indigenous founder of the #WeCare movement, has been a conversation partner at a number of Witness events/gatherings and has spoken in a few of our Mennonite congregations (including an All Women's Event in the fall of 2015).

Witness helped initiate a significant documentary video produced by Rebel Sky Media, Mennonite Central Committee and St. John's Lutheran Church. The video tells the story of how the Young Chippewyan Cree, Mennonites and Lutherans in the Saskatchewan valley (Laird) are working together to repair the injustice of stolen land. There is discussion between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and Witness about using this video to animate national conversations between our two denominations, stirring dreams in specific locations around renewed Treaty relationships. Witness also produced a congregational study guide to accompany the video. (See www.commonword.ca/go/584).

Churches for Freedom Road: Witness (along with other social justice groups) advocated alongside Shoal Lake 40 First Nation (located on the MB/ON border) to remedy the negative impact that water extraction (for the benefit of the City of Winnipeg) has had on their community. Witness connected performing artist Steve Bell with local Mennonite pastors and Christian Peacemaker Teams to form *Churches for Freedom Road* (see www.churchesforfreedomroad.ca) to call for a road that will allow Shoal Lake 40 First Nation to have access to clean water and potential employment. We helped mobilize hundreds to join a large public rally, helped bring a huge group of religious leaders, city counselors, and university students (in buses and vans) to Shoal Lake 40 for a community feast and a chance for all these folks - who don't know the story - to learn the history, the present-day impacts, and the need for advocacy. In mid-December all three levels of government announced that funding for a road to Shoal Lake would be included in their 2016 budgets.

Doctrine of Discovery and Terra Nullius: TRC *Call to Action* #49 asks “all religious denominations” to repudiate these legal concepts that originated (in part) with the Church. The Evangelical Lutherans, Anglicans, United Church and Quakers have all done so. While there is a concern that church wide statements do not always shift realities on the ground, the TRC says such statements are important in creating awareness and promoting accountability.

A resolution regarding the Doctrine of Discovery is being put forth at Assembly 2016, sponsored by various congregations and Area Churches. Witness has published material on the Doctrine of

Discovery in *Intotemak* and plans to produce more resources for our congregations that we connect this discussion specifically to our Anabaptist practice(s)/understanding(s) of the gospel.

Church Apologies and Reconciliation: TRC's *Call to Action* #60 summons the Church to 1) educate their constituencies regarding "their church's role in colonization," and 2) "develop curriculum" for all student clergy in collaboration with Indigenous spiritual leaders, "on the need to respect Indigenous spirituality in its own right."

There are various ways that Witness has sought to honour these important concerns. In June, 2015, Witness helped bring 18 participants to the North American Indigenous Institute for Theological Studies (NAIITS), a Christian gathering that is led by Indigenous spiritual leaders.

Witness annually co-sponsors/facilitates the Fall and Spring Building Bridges/Partnership events in Manitoba that feature Indigenous teachers, both traditional and Christian, to engage our constituencies and the broader public in these specific concerns. These events are purposely hosted by Circle of Life Thunderbird House, a place of Indigenous spiritual revitalization.

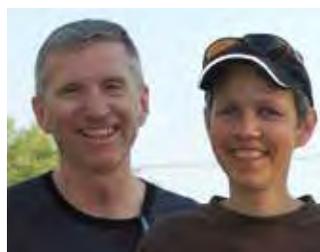
In November 2015, Witness helped plan/sponsor A Retreat at Six Nations of the Grand River (near Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario) that brought together traditional and Christian communities to learn from one another.

Healing and Reconciliation Projects: TRC *Call to Action* #61 is specifically addressed to church parties (i.e. Roman Catholic, Anglican, United and Presbyterian) to the settlement agreement, inviting them to establish permanent funding for a variety of community-controlled reconciliation and revitalization projects. We note here that Mennonite Church Canada in partnership with Mennonite Central Committee Canada gives grants to Indigenous-led organizations each year through the Jubilee Fund. These grants are specifically allocated to projects related to land and usually total \$5000-\$7000. This year we were happy to support the "River Run" educational work of Grassy Narrows First Nations and Wolastoq Grand Council's efforts to reassert jurisdiction over traditional territories.

SHORT TERM MINISTRY

Our international partners continue to express appreciation for the people that we send to support their ministries and the assignments prove to be rewarding and growing experiences for our workers. In some areas where there is no Mennonite Church, we work with partners that value the Mennonite perspective that we bring. Such is the case with the Bethlehem Bible College who just this year began offering a Master's program in Peace Studies. Logistical complications do not allow us to send long term workers to Palestine/Israel, so our short term ministry program provides an opportunity to encourage and support these peace-building efforts in this area of tension and conflict.

Since February, 2014, we've had 23 short term ministry workers (including 8 couples) serve in 23 assignments, in 16 different countries in Latin America, Asia and Africa. Two of these workers are young adults, 12 are retired and 9 are adults able to take leaves from their employment for short term ministry. Eight of these workers/couples have served for more than one assignment, six of which are considered "resource workers" who serve on an on-going basis. These workers come from 14 congregations within Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario and include the following individuals, some of whom are anticipating service:



Marla and Karl Langelotz (Sargent Mennonite Church, Winnipeg, MB) are anticipating an assignment in Germany, working alongside Witness workers Gregory Rabus and Jennifer Otto from September 2016 – June 2017. The *Friedenshaus* (Peace House)

is a community outreach project that Gregory and Jennifer are helping to develop in the building of the Ludwigshafen Mennonite Church, and Karl and Marla will support this peace and community-building initiative.



Hannah Thiessen (Wanner Mennonite Church, Glen Morris, ON) is serving in Burkina Faso as an educational childcare worker for Lillian and Norm Nicolson's two children, Nadine and Kenneth. She will complete her term in July, 2016.



Rene Baergen is a resource worker who taught New Testament workshops for Anabaptist leaders in Uruguay in October, 2015 and in Cuba in May, 2016. He is the Pastor of Hispanic Ministry at First Mennonite Church (Kitchener, ON), and sees his teaching

ministry in Latin America as an outgrowth of his multi-cultural ministry at First Mennonite.



Byron and Melita Rempel-Burkholder (Home Street Mennonite Church, Winnipeg, MB) served at Bethlehem Bible College (BBC) from January-April, 2016. Melita served as an administrative assistant for the Shepherd Society - the social service arm of the college.

Byron's work included some driving errands for BBC to facilitate getting through the military checkpoints, as well as support for college staff in their communications and publications.



Erna and Henry Funk (Zoar Mennonite Church, Waldheim, SK) served two assignments as associates for the SERVE Nazareth program, in 2014 and 2016. They worked in the Nazareth Village (a reconstruction of a first-century village used to illustrate the teachings of Jesus) as well as in

the Nazareth Hospital as chaplain/care-giver.



Tom Roes (Zurich Mennonite Church, ON), Mennonite Church Canada's "Missional Capacity Building Worker", worked together with our partners in Africa and Latin America to explore creative ways to become missional communities that are sustainable. The vision for this

ministry is to shift Mennonite Church Canada's investment from support of shared programs to an accompaniment, resourcing and capacity building role for the ongoing life of the church and its mission in each context. Tom was sent to teach entrepreneurial workshops in Cuba and Colombia in 2014, and in 2015, he taught in Cuba, Botswana and Colombia.



AnaSara Rojas (Fort Garry Mennonite Fellowship, Winnipeg, MB) completed her one year assignment in South Korea in September, 2015. She taught a number of children and adult English classes offered by the *Dream Church* and the *Peace N Joy Church* and supported the

ministries of these churches as needed.



Jack and Irene Suderman are resource workers who taught in the Philippines, China and Korea in 2014, and Colombia in 2015. Jack and Irene are members at the First Mennonite Church, Kitchener, ON.



Fanosie Legesse and Norm Dyck led a leadership training seminar for missionaries and church leaders in Ethiopia in March, 2015. Fanosie was sent by Bethel Mennonite Church (Elora, ON) and is currently pastor at Zion Mennonite Fellowship (Elmira, ON) and

has had multiple opportunities to return to his home country of Ethiopia to lead seminars and teach at the Meserete Kristos College. Norm was sent on this short term ministry assignment by the Listowel Mennonite Church (ON), where he is lead pastor.



Ben and Patti Wiebe taught at the Union Biblical Seminary (UBS) in India from January to March, 2015, as they have done on numerous times in past years. The Wiebes were very encouraged in this last assignment to see their former students going on to begin

ministries in impoverished communities, open a children's home and a Bible School, plant churches and even teach at UBS. The Wiebes live in Beamsville (ON) and relate closely to the St. Catharines United Mennonite Church.



Palmer Becker (Waterloo North Mennonite Church, ON) has spent his retirement years as a resource worker, teaching on what it means to be Anabaptist. In the past two years, he has made three trips – to Bethlehem Bible College, to Gaza to teach on pastoral care and counselling,

and his third trip included teaching in 6 Latin American countries. Palmer retired in May 2016, at the age of 80. Mennonite Church Canada is grateful for the many ways that Palmer shared his gifts, spirit and knowledge with the global church.



Jeremiah and Kara Buhler (Mount Royal Mennonite Church, Saskatoon, Sask.) served a 6 month term at Bethlehem Bible College, ending February, 2014. Kara provided support as a librarian in the campus library, which is also open to the public. Jeremiah, who was on

a sabbatical from his role as Area Church Minister of Mennonite Church Saskatchewan during this time, provided support in various roles such as helping with the newsletter and driving the college's van for different errands and airport pick-ups.



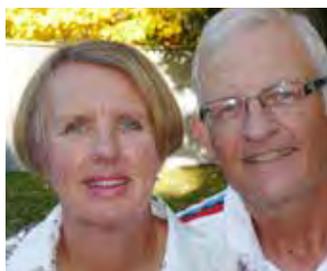
Lloyd and Margaret Oakey served through SERVE Nazareth from September to December 2014. They both worked in the first-century Nazareth Village as well as in the Nazareth Hospital, where Lloyd offered chaplain services and Margaret helped in the maternity ward. They are

members of Calvary Church (Ayr, ON) where Lloyd was given a sabbatical from his role as lead pastor.



Dan and Yvonne (Snider) Nighswander served in Pune, India, in January and February, 2014. Dan taught intensive New Testament courses at the Union Biblical Seminary while Yvonne assisted in the seminary library. This seminary has strong connections to several

Mennonite Church conferences in India. Dan and Yvonne's sending congregation was Jubilee Mennonite Church (Winnipeg), from where Dan was given a pastoral sabbatical for this assignment.



Peter and Viola Labun (Jubilee Mennonite Church, Winnipeg, MB) went on their second teaching assignment in China from August, 2014 to January, 2015, serving through Mennonite Partners in China. While they taught English at a University in Nanchong, Sichuan, they were also able to support

the small but active Christian presence there.

There continue to be new short term ministry placements developed in response to invitations and needs expressed by our ministry partners. Current listings can be found at home.mennonitechurch.ca/ServeShort. Our placement openings are advertised through the various Mennonite Church Canada publications, our Mennonite Universities and Colleges and the *Canadian Mennonite* magazine. Yet word of mouth continues to be the most effective way of letting people from our constituent congregations know about these short term ministry opportunities and needs.

NETWORKING AND RELATED ORGANIZATIONS

Vision and Dialogue for Mission: In 2014, Witness joined Mennonite Mission Network and Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) in launching *Anabaptist Witness* (www.AnabaptistWitness.org), a successor journal to *Mission Focus*. *Anabaptist Witness* is a global Anabaptist and Mennonite dialogue on key issues facing the church in mission. Issues are published in print and online each April and October, with additional content available online throughout the year. *Anabaptist Witness* publishes missiological content of various kinds, including academic papers, sermons, interviews, biographies, personal reflections, poetry, and photo-essays. Issue themes are meant to address crucial topics in current mission theology and practice. Witness is represented on the editorial committee by Steve Heinrichs (staff) and Gregory Rabus (Witness Partner, Germany).

Mennonite World Conference (MWC) and global

Anabaptist partners: Witness staff member Hippolyto Tshimanga was an invited speaker at both the Global Education Conference (Lansdale, PA) and the MWC Assembly (Harrisburg, PA) in 2015. Hippo has also spoken at the Southern Cone (Latin America) gathering in Chile (2015), the annual Assembly of the Colombian Mennonite Church (2014 & 2015) and has been invited for teaching by the Meserete Kristos Church in 2016. Witness Workers have also been appointed to the MWC Peace Commission, Joji Pantoja (Philippines) as chairperson and Andrew Suderman (South Africa) as chairperson. Witness staff Steve Heinrichs and Witness Worker Dann Pantoja have also been asked to make presentations at the 2016 Conrad Grebel UC Global Mennonite Peacebuilding Conference and Festival in June 2016.

Related Organizations: In 2014, Mennonite Church Canada completed a review of its relationships with other North American partner organizations in order to strengthen our legal compliance and update our administrative processes. The review included an inventory of current relationships and a close reading of Canada Revenue Agency guidelines. A number of these organizations had financial relationships with Mennonite Church Canada through the Christian Witness Council. The review recommended financial and administrative changes be made. Related organizations were consulted and advised of needed changes prior to 2015. Christian Peacemaker Teams chose to discontinue its financial relationship with Mennonite Church Canada.

International Worker Care: Witness has been part of an emerging conversation in Manitoba for a network of mission organizations to collaborate in providing care for cross-cultural workers and their families. More than a dozen organizations have joined the conversation and it has resulted in public symposiums being offered in May 2015 and May 2016 for missionary families, congregations and other care providers.

Staff Listing:

Tim Froese, Executive Minister, Witness
 Steve Heinrichs, Director, Indigenous Relations
 Gordon Janzen, Director, Asia, Europe & Middle East Ministry
 Ingrid Miller, Administrative Assistant, International Ministries & National Ministries
 KyungHee Park, Executive Assistant
 Hippolyto Tshimanga, Director, Africa, Europe & Latin America Ministry
 Tany Warkentin, Short Term Ministry Coordinator

Christian Witness Council:

Norm Dyck, Chair (Listowel MC, ON)
 Lynell Bergen (Hope MC, MB)
 Jonathan Bonk (Fort Garry MF, MB)
 Allan Friesen (Eigenheim MC, SK)
 Pat Gerber-Pauls (Zoar MC, Waldheim, SK)
 Roberson Mbayamvula (Hagerman MC, ON)
 Paul Mo (Markham Chinese MC, ON)
 Rie Neufeld (Mennonite Japanese Christian Fellowship, BC)
 Thank you to Hugo Neufeld whose Council term ended in 2015.

Respectfully submitted by
 Norm Dyck, Chair, Witness Council, and
 Tim Froese, Executive Minister, Witness



Mennonite Women Canada Annual Report ~ March 2016

Mennonite Women Canada encourages women to:

- ~ nurture their life in Christ
- ~ acknowledge and share their gifts
- ~ hear and support each other
- ~ serve and minister across the street and around the world

Over the past 64 years Mennonite Women Canada has worked at connecting and supporting Mennonite Church Canada's area church's women's organizations and women in local congregations. Each spring representatives of the area churches together with our President and Secretary-Treasurer meet to discuss our ongoing ministries and future direction. This past year we have been actively searching for a new President and a new Secretary-Treasurer. It has been a very stressful year anticipating the transitions that lie ahead of us. As a Mennonite Church Canada partner organization we pray for wisdom and guidance as we work together.

Our mission statement (above) is our compass for directing our ministry and we believe that our ministry is consistent with it. Every year there are a few details that change within each project.

Spiritual Growth Assistance Fund – Every year we offer scholarships to women studying Anabaptist theology at a Masters degree level. Recipients this year are Danielle Fillion Raimbault (Conrad Grebel College University), Shari Nash (Conrad Grebel College University), and Laura Funk (Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary). Applications are available through our website or by contacting the President and are accepted until June 30. See links below.

Pennies and Prayer Legacy Fund – \$5,000 from this endowment fund is used each year to support Mennonite Church Canada Witness workers overseas. We are continuing to support Christina and Darnell Barkman (Philippines) and Taryn and Nathan Dirks (Botswana).

Annual Bible Study Guide – We collaborate with Mennonite Women USA and MennoMedia to publish a 70-page Bible Study Guide. *Spark*, by Canadian writer April Yamasaki, was published in July 2015. It was also reformatted into a Retreat Kit. Complementary copies of the guide are mailed to each MC Canada congregation and provincial executive members. The new guide *Faith Travels: Trusting God in Life's Transitions* by Marlene Kropf, will be available in July 2016.

International Ministries – We are continuing to support MC Canada's ongoing ministry among the Isaan people in northeast Thailand under the direction of Tom and Christine Poovong.

Short-Term Ministries – We support a number of short-term ministries under the umbrella of MC Canada.

Funding: MW Canada receives donations from area church women's organizations as well as congregational women's groups and individuals. This past year we have made some changes in our practices to ensure that we are CRA compliant. Tany Warkentin is our liaison with MC Canada Witness Council and she has guided us through this transition.

God's love is everlasting!

Unexpected global and local events of the past years, opportunities for new growth and the grace of God have been the constant themes for Christian Peacemaker Teams Canada, in the past two years. CPT members were devastated in July 2015, when CPT trainer Kryss Chupp experienced the loss of her daughter, significant trauma to her son-in-law and two grandchildren in a tragic house fire. After a leave of absence, she has returned as the new Personnel Coordinator, replacing Adriana Cabrera-Velasquez, who had resigned. This year also marks the tenth anniversary of the murder of CPT member Tom Fox, after he and three other delegation members, including CPT member James Loney, were kidnapped in Baghdad, Iraq and held hostage for 118 days. This is a time of remembering Tom's gentle spirit, commitment to peacemaking, and the offer of forgiveness to their captors, by the remaining three team members. Presente!

After a new leadership model was initiated three years ago, another strategic planning session is planned for the larger team in 2016 to review and evaluate the effectiveness of our current model, using the facilitation skills of a professional. Muriel Schmidt is leaving her Program Director position and being replaced by Sandra Milena Rincon from Colombia. As Milena vacates her Project Support Coordinator position for Iraqi Kurdistan and Colombia, she will be replaced by CPT member Lukasz Firla, for the IK Team, and CPT member Chris Knestrick for the Colombia Team. Tarek Abuata has resigned from the Palestine Project Support Coordinator role, and replaced by CPT member Mona el Zuhairi, a local Palestinian. Esther Kern will leave her CPT Canada Coordinator position at the end of 2016, a time when the needs of the Toronto CPT office will be evaluated.

Work on CPT projects continues unabated, with additional influences by world events and political instability. The Iraqi Kurdistan Team continue to host international delegations which are exposed to the realities of resumed cross border bombings, the influx of over 1.6 million Internally Displaced People and Syrian Refugees, creating a humanitarian crisis. A CPT training was held by the IK team during February and March, for 11 persons in preparation for work in Kurdistan and on Migrant

Justice in Greece where CPT has had an active presence on the Island of Lesbos. Kathy Moorhead Thiessen was instrumental in helping to plan and conduct the training and has now joined the Indigenous Peoples Solidarity Team. Another CPT training will be held Berlin, Germany in September 2016.

Since October 2015, there has been a surge of violence in Palestine and Hebron where the team is located. Two more full time CPT members have been denied entry and banned for five and ten years, which creates challenges in responding to the community's nonviolent resistance efforts against the occupation. International delegations continue to be present as a way of being witness to, and reporting, human rights violations, and accompanying school children with CPT members.

Accompaniment in Colombia continues with campesinos, whose lands and livelihoods are threatened with acts of violence. There is hope that the current "peace process" will prevail and bring justice to the marginalized. A new full time Canadian has joined the team along with three other Canadians.

Recommendations from the Canada's "Truth and Reconciliation" process are being implemented in a number of ways, with numerous requests from schools, churches and community groups for the Indigenous Peoples Solidarity team to conduct the KAIROS initiated "Blanket Exercise", deliver sermons, present at Christian Education classes, and provide other educational resources. Delegations are taken to the community of Grassy Narrows, to learn about the challenges of that community. Accompaniment was provided for Haudenosaunee hunters near St. Catharines, Ontario the past two years, as they exercised their Treaty rights to hunt deer in a provincial park, in spite of opposition from local citizens.

God's love is everlasting, and we claim strength in that assertion, as we work and strive to live our mission statement of "Building partnerships to transform violence and oppression".

Esther Kern
CPT Canada Coordinator



During the past year, we've witnessed God's faithfulness in the worldwide ministry of Mennonite Central Committee.

In light of the courage of our partners and the people we walk alongside, we have taken Hebrews 10: 23–24 as our theme verse: "Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds...."

We have pondered what it means to "hold fast" and how we motivate one another to share God's love for all.

We are grateful for the support of all our church constituencies, including Mennonite Church Canada. You give to our relief, development and peacebuilding projects. You shoulder tap young people to serve in programs like SALT. You sponsor refugees. You volunteer at MCC Thrift shops. You pray for us and for those we serve. Thank you.

Let me highlight a few ways MCC has worked toward our strategic goals over the past 12 months.

1. Caring for the lives and futures of uprooted and other vulnerable people.

Since the Syrian conflict began five years ago, MCC has spent about US\$34.6 million in Syria, Iraq and neighbouring countries. It's the largest financial response in our history.

In Canada, we partnered with 130 churches and 88 community groups to bring Syrian refugees to Canada, submitting 1,157 refugee sponsorship applications by the end of 2015. That number is growing.

2. Providing water, food and shelter first in times of disaster, then education and ways to earn income.

MCC was there when a 7.8-magnitude earthquake hit Nepal last April. Our disaster response included distribution of supplies, such as jackets, blankets, tarps and mattresses, to families still living in temporary shelters in December.

And in Ethiopia, a country experiencing its worst drought in 30 years, MCC is working with subsistence farmers to improve soil fertility and diversify sources of income. In one project in Afar region, we restocked the goat herds of 400 drought-affected households.



The Magar family's house was destroyed in the April 2015 Nepal earthquake. MCC provided emergency food assistance and helped build temporary shelters in the District of Dhading. MCC Photo/Matthew Sawatzky

3. Investing in opportunities for young people to serve in Canada, the U.S. and around the world.

Rachel Bergen from Wildwood Mennonite Church in Saskatoon is part of the SALT program, serving as a writer for MCC's peacebuilding work in Cambodia.

We love the way Rachel describes the first meeting with her host family: "I approached my new home in a sputtering tuk tuk filled with my belongings, a mosquito net, and a fan (essentials for life in a tropical country), and was greeted at the door by my new family. They embraced me and gave me a laminated sign that read, 'Warm reception you Rachel.' I was a stranger and they welcomed me.... This time in Cambodia has been an education, but paramount are the lessons of humility and hospitality modelled by my host family."

Thank you for your support, Mennonite Church Canada! May we all continue to hold fast to our hope in Christ.

Submitted by Don Peters,
Executive Director,
Mennonite Central Committee Canada



Grace and peace to you, the local churches that are part of the MDS Anabaptist community. We begin with these words of 'grace and peace' because these are what MDS has experienced in this last year. Grace and peace are also what we want to extend to the people we will serve in 2016.

After 4 fruitful years with MDS Janet Plenert has resigned and accepted a call to serve with MCC in Bolivia. While we are sad to have Janet leave, we are very excited for her continued faithfulness in following God's call to serve with our sister organization, Mennonite Central Committee. Ross Penner began as Director of Canadian Operations on November 9th, 2015. Ross has been a pastor in the Mennonite Church and Mennonite Brethren Church for over 20 years. Most recently he and his wife returned from Bangladesh after serving there with MCC and World Vision. We are grateful for the way in which God has provided in a timely way for the needs of MDS Canada.

The decision to take on a project rests with the provincial units and their assessment of the need and their ability to respond to the need. Sometimes, the project becomes big enough that that call goes out beyond provincial boundaries. High River, Alberta was such a project. Following the spring 2013 flood, MDS has been working to respond, rebuild, and restore people who have faced disaster. In September of this year the High River project was closed. Here are some of the amazing numbers from that project:

- 155 Jobs completed
- 1051 Volunteers who helped
- 6618 Days of volunteer help
- 41% Volunteers under 26 yrs. old



Its break time at a Family Project, Camp Elim, Saskatchewan. Family projects build servant values and hopefully future MDS volunteers!

Further highlights from MDS Canada 2015 year include a great finish to the High River Alberta project which closed in September, 2015. Saskatchewan hosted two different projects: a youth project at Redberry Bible Camp and a family project at Camp Elim (see photo). The Manitoba Unit was able to raise and dedicate a home that had been damaged in the 2011 Red River flood. Ontario completed two different home projects; one that was incredibly complex and drawn out and one that was straightforward and went quickly. Both were a reminder that our work is firstly with people and secondly with the clean-up and reconstruction of buildings.

This year we will plan to have a summer Youth Project in BC. We are planning Family Projects in Manitoba and Ontario. As this is being written, plans are underway for a rebuilding project in Rock Creek, B.C.(fires). And as usual, we continue to send hundreds of volunteers south to places like Detroit, MI, Bastrop, TX, and Pateros, WA.

We continue to keep our centre as a grass roots movement of people like you; people who make up the Mennonite and Anabaptist communities who want to live out their faith in practical ways. Thank you for the chance to work with you to proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God!

Mennonite Men, an organization of the Mennonite Church, is a jointly owned partnership of Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada. It is an organization that aims to provide an Anabaptist perspective on manhood that speaks to current issues.



Mennonite Men

A ministry group of Mennonite Church Canada
and a constituency group of Mennonite Church USA

The priorities of Mennonite Men are three fold: to help men develop fellowship groups, to develop spiritual resources for men, and to raise funds to help young congregations build or purchase their first meeting house through the JoinHands Church Grant Program. A board of twelve regionally chosen members meets annually to manage the work of Mennonite Men.

A quarterly electronic newsletter with resources for men's groups is available upon request. Use mm@mennonitemen.org to request the newsletter. Use the same email to report on the activities of your men's group.

A book on men's spirituality authored by Gareth Brandt titled *Under Construction*, made possible through the support of Mennonite Men, is being translated into Spanish. It is available from MennoMedia.

JoinHands, the service component of Mennonite Men has given more than \$1.8 million to 68 congregations since 1985. Among Mennonite of St. Paul Mn received a \$40,000 grant in February and Nations Worship Center of Philadelphia PA received a \$40,000 grant in December. Several applications for grants are pending. Two grants, one for a US and one for a Canadian church plant are waiting for approval from the executive committee.



A title of all donations received is put aside to help congregations overseas acquire their first meeting place. In the US, the Mennonite Mission Network distributes this money; in Canada it is distributed by Witness. Congregations receiving these grants span the globe.

Mennonite Men enlists individuals and groups willing to contribute \$100 or more twice a year to support JoinHands Church Grants. Grants are given to new congregations building or buying their first meeting house.

Hans Peters began his role as Canadian national coordinator in December 2014 and works out of his home office in Kitchener, Ontario. Don Yoder, coordinator for Mennonite Men USA since 2010, works out of the Mennonite Men office located in the MennoMedia building in Harrisonburg VA.

Your Area Church JoinHands coordinators are Clarence Yip in BC, Murray Logan in Saskatchewan, Abe Wiebe in Manitoba, and Don Neufeld in Ontario.

Check our website and Facebook for information and resources.
www.mennonitemen.org

Hans Peters,
Canadian National Coordinator for Mennonite Men, 2016
(519) 893-8394 or hpeters@mennonitechurch.ca

Mennonite Voluntary Service Adventure (MVSA) continues to provide Christian service opportunities for young adults in Edmonton, Lethbridge and Winnipeg. Each MVSA unit is sponsored by a local congregation and overseen by a support committee. The work of the support committees includes recruitment and placement of volunteers.

All three MVSA Units are strong and self-sustaining. There are 14 MVSA volunteers along with 2 IVEP volunteers. While the lack of interest from North Americans continues to be a challenge, we are blessed with an increase in volunteers. Once again, most of the volunteers arrived from Germany via EIRIENE and Christliche Dienste (CD) with one volunteer from France, another from the Ukraine and two (IVEP) from Africa.

Each MVSA Unit continues to be a blessing to the sponsoring congregation and the communities in which they serve. Here are the unit reports:

The Edmonton MVSA Unit is sponsored by Holyrood Mennonite Church. The fifth year of operation is going well. This year's group of volunteers—**Jana** with L'Arche, **Samuel** with the MCC Thrift Shop and **Julia** with the Waldorf School—arrived in late August or early September 2015 from Germany. In addition, for the first time, the unit has an IVEP volunteer named **Refiloe (Joyce)** from Lesotho. The volunteers are seen as valuable members of the agencies in which they serve.

Previous volunteers report that they enjoy their placements and learn much over the course of their MVSA experience. The serving agencies are very impressed (and pleased) with our volunteers. The volunteers have been welcomed into the Holyrood family. The congregation continues to support the unit members through prayers, hospitality, outings, and gifts or loans to the house. One important addition to the MVSA experience is the introduction of host families. Each volunteer has been assigned a host family from Holyrood Mennonite Church. These families along with community members helped the new volunteers get settled into unit life as well as offer additional opportunities for experiences and relationships.

MVSA Lethbridge is almost full to overflowing with six volunteers this year. **Damaris** and **Mareike** came to us from Germany and are volunteering at PEAK and ARC (2 day programs for adults with developmental disabilities) respectively. **Mira** and **Teresa** came to us from Germany and are volunteering at L'Arche Lethbridge and the Lethbridge Therapeutic Riding Association. **Mickaël** came to us from France through Joie et Vie and is volunteering at the Rehoboth Day Program for adults with developmental disabilities. **Thandy** arrived from South Africa through the IVEP program and is volunteering at the MCC Thrift Store.

The volunteers are enjoying their placements and their agencies are pleased with their contributions. While this is the largest group of volunteers, the atmosphere in the home is very positive. The volunteers have become part of Lethbridge Mennonite Church. They have taken part in services in various ways such as singing, playing instruments and in the Sunday School Christmas program. The volunteers also assist at Parents Night Out. The volunteers have connected with the College Drive youth. In addition, host families from the congregation continue to be a source of support.

The Winnipeg MVSA Unit is sponsored by Bethel Mennonite Church. The unit has been in operation for more than 30 years. This year the unit is full with 6 volunteers. **Stephan** and **Dominik** are both from Germany and are working at Winnipeg Harvest. **Camilla**, from Germany, and **Valery**, who came through the Mennonite Church in Zaporizhzhya, Ukraine, are both working at the Carter Early Learning Centre. **Lisa** and **Thea** are from Germany. Lisa has two half time placements at Bethel Mennonite Church and the Sargent MCC Thrift Store, and Thea works at Hospitality House, an agency working with refugees to Canada.

This group has become a strong team of volunteers as well as a strong team of housemates. It is good to have a good mix of male/female volunteers. They have quickly formed friendships, while building a household family is a longer process. They are dedicated workers at the various agencies where they serve and continue to amaze the support committee with their resourcefulness and willingness to share their skills and goodwill in the name of Christ. The volunteers have become more involved in the life of the Bethel congregation over the past few years. This results in Bethel's members becoming more involved in the lives of the volunteers, inviting them to their homes and various outings.

The lives of the volunteers, those they serve, and the supporting congregations are deeply enriched. The three MVSA Units are strong.

Submitted by
Scott Key on behalf of MVSA.

Church Engagement Mandate

(from Mennonite Church Canada bylaws):

- (e) The core activities of the Church Engagement Council shall be to represent Mennonite Church Canada to Canadian congregations and individuals, develop and strengthen ministry and financial support, and strengthen their missional vision including but not limited to:
- (a) develop and foster a missional vision with Area Churches and their constituent congregations;
 - (b) coordinate missional formation processes for congregations;
 - (c) develop transformative congregational partnerships for ministry;
 - (d) oversee resource development and communications activities; and
 - (e) form relationships with congregations and individuals, encourage partnership and financial support in the ministry of Mennonite Church Canada

Engagement Budgets:

Fiscal Year Ending 2015 (Net): \$655,535

Fiscal Year Ending 2016 (Net): \$655,535

Greetings! It is both a great joy and a great challenge to serve God through the church in these times. It is joyful because there is so much good news to share about good ministry happening in and beyond our congregations. It is challenging because the information generation we live in makes it quite difficult to reach people with the good news.

In 1972, a common rule of thumb among advertisers was that a message needed to be repeated a minimum of three times per person for it to 'stick' with an audience. Fast forward to today, and that number has jumped to about 15 impressions – even more if your audience is large, there is considerable competition in your field, and your budget is limited.

These statistics are the same for church communicators. Anyone in a congregation will know this is true if they have ever tried to engage people in a Bible study, a banquet, a church retreat. Announcements need to be repeated via church bulletins, verbally on Sunday mornings, and supplemented by invitation cards, phone calls, and on an individual person-to-person basis.

The communication clutter challenge is amplified when, as in the case of a national church like Mennonite Church Canada, the audience is large (about 31,000 people), spread across multiple provinces and time zones, the audience is diverse (rural, urban, ethnic, and 20 language variations), media consumption

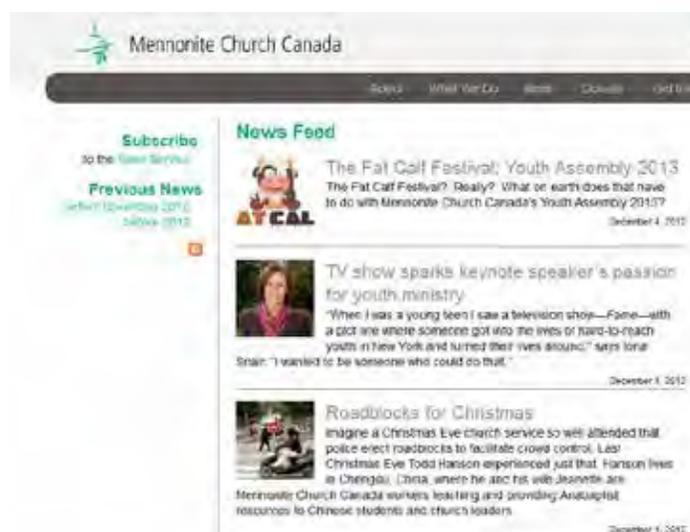
preferences range from print to video to social media (yes, even Mennonites are individualistic!), and budgets are small.

But none of that stops your Church Engagement team! Here are some of the ways in which we reach out to pastors, congregations, and individuals across our great family of faith.

Communicating with you...

Everyone loves a story. Providing stories as well as news to our constituent congregations and individuals is a high priority. We do this via a bi-weekly electronic news service which currently has 435 individuals and 225 congregations subscribing. We also share a lot of this news on the social media platforms of Facebook and Twitter.

Not surprisingly, the news section of mennonitechurch.ca receives the second highest number of visitors (eclipsed only by our home page), averaging 2,000 unique visitors per month. Visitors stay on a page an average of 112 seconds; web traffic analysts say that 120 seconds is an eternity for a viewer to stay on a page.¹



Mennonite Church Canada produces about 8 news stories per month, approximately 3 of which are also carried in *Canadian Mennonite*. *Canadian Mennonite* also publishes the *From Our Leaders* column which carries content from Mennonite Church Canada leaders 12 times per year. In 2015, *Canadian Mennonite*, published an additional 12 Mennonite Church Canada items online only. Anyone can subscribe for free to Mennonite Church Canada's e-News Service via www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/59/7504.

One key way in which we rely on pastors and office administrators to communicate with congregations is asking them to pass on announcements about events in your area, prayer requests, and information items in the weekly *e-Equipping*. By mid-week, church offices across Canada receive e-Equipping for their church

¹ <https://www.nngroup.com/articles/how-long-do-users-stay-on-web-pages/>

bulletins. Your Mennonite Church Canada program staff are very grateful for any and all space congregations provide for such information in church bulletins!

PrayerNet is a 1,000+ monthly subscriber letter of praise and prayer items for various ministries in which you are involved through Mennonite Church Canada. All congregations receive *PrayerNet*, as well as individual subscribers. Occasionally subscribers will get urgent prayer requests in between regular issues. Because prayer requests sometimes contain sensitive information that could put at risk workers or ministries in some countries, subscribers need to be vetted. To get your copy of *PrayerNet*, visit www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/59/7507.

The 1,000+ subscriber *World of Witness International Report* is produced and distributed five times per year. It contains photos and exciting highlights of ministry as experienced by Witness workers on the ground, from around the world. It's a great way to stay up-to-date with the work supported by congregations and individuals from our faith family across Canada. Subscribers are welcome via www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/59/7508.

The Mennonite Church Canada *Speakers' Bureau* lists staff and leaders available to visit and speak in congregational settings. On a rotating basis, Witness Workers also visit congregations when they come to Canada, focusing first on visitation with congregations that are formal supporting partners, and then making themselves available to other congregations en route. Their stories and photos of ministries are always in demand! To book a Witness worker, email office@mennonitechurch.ca. Download a copy of the *Speakers' Bureau* at www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/43/7320.

In addition to visiting congregations on Sundays, several staff make stops at churches, seniors homes, annual Area Church gatherings, and special youth and young adult events in between Sundays. These are always wonderful opportunities to connect and share stories with one another!

With almost 200 videos with over 90,000 views and 156 subscribers, our YouTube channel is being discovered by everyday folks in the pews, pastors, Sunday School and adult education teachers in churches – and even the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, in Halifax. In preparing an exhibit on Canada's host people, Pier 21 chose a clip from our video explaining the historical significance of the Royal Proclamation of 1763. For us, this is almost like winning an Emmy Award!

Around 2009, it became clear that social media was fast becoming a useful tool for reaching out to a variety of audiences. While YouTube is considered one form of social media, Facebook and Twitter are more often recognized as social media platforms. Mennonite Church Canada has both a Facebook page (over 1,000

likes) and a Facebook Group (approaching 900 members), and maintains a Twitter presence (over 1,100 followers). We deeply appreciate when folks like and share our social media posts; the multiplier effect of those actions helps engage many others!

We've also been in the podcast market since 2007, producing a 15 minute podcast called *ChurchMatters*. You can subscribe via iTunes and other popular podcast providers, or via www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/23/9018. We're delighted to have breached the 100 episode mark of *Church Matters* in 2015!

Relationships are formed in a variety of ways. A new and emerging way for Mennonite Church Canada to work at relationship building is to leverage relationships with high profile athletes and artists who passionately carry their faith in Jesus wherever they go. Nick Spaling, NHL hockey player has been a willing guest at youth events in four provinces. Juno nominated and Warner record label singer-songwriter Matt Epp has helped promote Coffee for Peace, one of Mennonite Church Canada's ministries in the Philippines. Last year, Matt's visit to Coffee for Peace resulted in an excellent video you can see at donate.mennonitechurch.ca/project/CoffeeForPeace. Matt has performed twice so far for Mennonite Church Canada audiences in Manitoba and Ontario – both times to rave reviews.

We also keep busy creating *Your Church at Work* posters (one for every Sunday of the year), promotional materials for special events such as Ride for Refuge 2015, promoting the stellar ministry of www.commonword.ca through the 1,500+ subscriber *CommonWord Curator*, producing *Intotemak* – the 1,200 subscriber newsletter of Indigenous Relations – the Witness Worker Update, monitoring and supporting blogs, and more.

And we still use old fashioned land line phones as well as mobile phones to communicate with you. We welcome your phone calls and inquiries via our local and toll-free phone numbers.

Congregational Partnerships

The work of Daniel Horne and Jason Martin in Congregational Partnerships is the dynamic ministry of connecting passionate congregations and individuals with international and national ministries.

With general oversight by Willard Metzger, Executive Director, Congregational Partnerships works closely with Communications to deepen the engagement of our church family in ministry that would otherwise be challenging to do in smaller groups.

Congregational Partnerships is in the business of matching enthusiasm with opportunity. Visiting congregations to explore passions for ministry, whether international or domestic, is a first step. Connecting congregations with similar interests is another. And igniting missional passion and excitement in congregations is yet another aspect of this work.

Once engaged, congregations can choose how they connect with ministry. From prayer partners to encouragers to financial supporters – all are needed to sustain ministries that reach beyond the congregations.

Congregational Partnerships (as of FYE 2015)²

International Workers/ Ministries/Locations with Congregational Partners	Number of Partnerships	Number of Congregations in Partnerships
12	63	43

Congregational Partnerships together with Communications oversees Mennonite Church Canada’s online donation system. Here you can find a variety of opportunities to engage in ministry that empowers you to participate in ministry that reaches beyond the local congregation. Check out donate.mennonitechurch.ca/ for ways to get involved.

Donor Stories

One truly inspiring story from a donor “thank you” call...

This donor gives each month to our Witness work in the Philippines. What inspired her to give to that particular ministry was reading an article in the *Canadian Mennonite* about Mennonite Church Canada’s work of peace building in the Philippines. Just recently I was able to meet with her and thank her in person and also have Witness Workers Dann and Joji Pantoja meet her. She was thrilled with the experience of meeting them and hearing firsthand of their peace building work in Mindanao. – Jason Martin

As young newly married students at CMU my wife and I would regularly travel from Manitoba back home to BC to visit family and friends. After spending time visiting my grandparents, inevitably one of them would slip me a cheque; a little something to help us with our tuition. They believed that what we were doing was important and they wanted to support us in it. I often get this same feeling when I visit with Mennonite Church Donors. It is incredibly powerful when I meet someone for the first time and they hand me a cheque. They may not have a lot of money but they give in faith because they believe that the work that we do together is important. – Daniel Horne

On a recent trip I had the opportunity to meet with a donor that I had never met before. Over lunch she disclosed that she is a Christian but not a Mennonite. She came to know our workers through her business and because of how they have impacted her life; she has been generously supporting them for 11 years. She is well past the age of retirement but she continues to work full time. Recently she has had some health issues. When I asked her why she doesn’t slow down, she responded that she continues to work full time so she can give away everything she makes to support local and overseas mission. – Daniel Horne

² 20 congregations partner with more than one International Ministry

Church Visits FYE 2015

Jason Martin – 18

Daniel Horne – 21

Willard Metzger - 23

Plus other staff combined– 55 congregations

Staff Listing:

Coreena Stewart,

Church Engagement-Administration
/Chief Administrative Officer

Dan Dyck,

Church Engagement-Communications

Grant Klassen,

Webservant (part time)

Matthew Veith,

Multi-media Artist (part time)

Ryan Roth Bartel,

Graphic Designer

Irma Sulistyorini,

Communications Assistant (MCC IVEP Volunteer)

Deborah Froese,

Director, News Services (part time)

Daniel Horne,

Director, Partnership Development, British Columbia
and Alberta; Director, Partnership Development,
Saskatchewan and Manitoba

Jason Martin,

Director, Partnership Development, Eastern Canada

Respectfully submitted by

Vince Friesen, Chair, Church Engagement Council;

Coreena Stewart, Director, Church Engagement-
Administration and Chief Administrative Officer; and

Dan Dyck, Director, Church Engagement-
Communications.



Come out and join
Ride for Refuge 2016
in support of
Mennonite Church Canada
Witness!

Ride for Refuge is a cross-Canada recreational, family friendly event for all ages! In 2014, you helped raise \$20,000 for ministry in Botswana. In 2015, you helped raise \$15000 for ministry in Thailand. Fantastic!! In 2016, we're setting a goal of \$30,000.

Watch for more news about Ride 2016 coming to you and your church!



register

donate

locations

volunteer

follow

canada.rideforrefuge.org/

"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God." 1 John 4:7

GENEROSITY

In a book about the positive impact of generosity on the giver, the authors write, "...generosity is ultimately an expression of love..." For more than four decades, MFC has been assisting people express their love by planning for generosity during their lifetimes and at the end of life. MFC is grateful for the continual strong relationships with congregations that form Mennonite Church of Canada. We are always open to invitations to explore with you biblical generosity as an expression of love.

UPDATED RESOURCES

MFC has several resources that have been recently updated. These are available on our website or by contacting our staff.

- Your Will & Estate Planning Guide
- Personal Information Directory
- God, Money, and Me
- MFC & The Church

SEAL OF ACCOUNTABILITY

MFC has obtained the Canadian Council of Christian Charities' (CCCC) Seal of Accountability. This certification lets donors know that MFC is a trustworthy charity, operating with integrity, accountability, and transparency.

MFC OFFERS:

- Generosity planning for individuals and congregations
- Lifetime giving plans
- Family foundation options
- End of life generosity plans
- Values-based fund management for congregations
- Loans for churches and related organizations
- Inspiring presentations for living generously with gifts from God

2015 Highlights



\$16.7 M

distributed to Canadian Charities



886

charities supported using MFC services



\$10.23 M

donations of stock and mutual funds

MFC STEWARDSHIP CONSULTANTS



Kevin Davidson



Peter Dryden



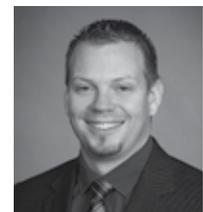
Arnie Friesen



Marlow Gingerich



Sherri Grosz



Daniel Lichty



Harold Penner



Mike Strathdee



Dori Zerbe Cornelsen

As each has received a gift, employ it for one another as good stewards of God's varied grace. – 1 Peter 4:10



1.800.772.3257
MennoFoundation.ca

Significant highlights

An independent reader survey taken in the fall—the first in 14 years—gave us some interesting results as to who are our readers, what they read in *Canadian Mennonite*, how they feel about our “independent standing” in the denomination and what would they like to see that they are not seeing regarding content. Not surprisingly, our most loyal and appreciative readership is in the 66-plus age demographic. Overall, they are happy with the publication and want to see it remain “independent.” On the whole readers thought CM should reflect the views of Mennonite Church Canada leadership, but they want a balanced view where leaders are just one of the voices, observes our survey analyst. There was a strong consensus that we keep it a print product rather than moving rapidly to a digital magazine. Both the younger demographic (26-45) and the older ones see us as a place to challenge and discuss ideas. “CM’s purpose should NOT be to make us feel good,” said one respondent, “but rather to inform and provoke more questions and searching.” The youngest age group, further observed our analyst, “was very interested in more Christian and theological teaching in response to issues. While they enjoy the discussion and letters, they wanted to have some ‘theology’ to go along with it. Online responders were the only ones to suggest talking about the aging church and more Anabaptist perspectives. They were the only group wanting a stronger Anabaptist presence—others suggested that there should be more theological views (some from leaders but not exclusively). The under 45 group was the most interested in theology. Overall people are pleased.

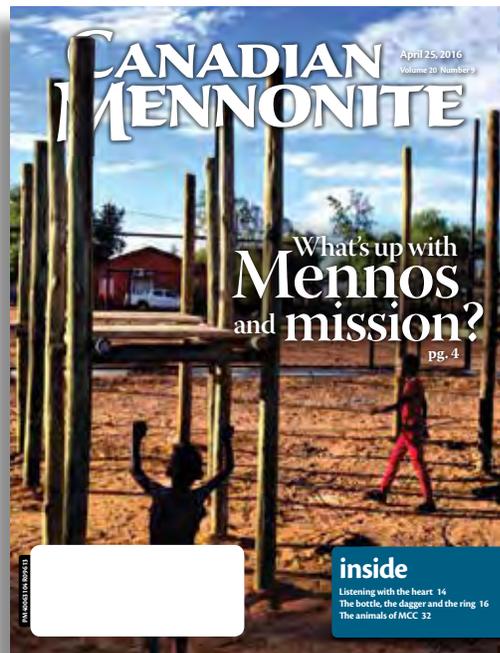
Editorial highlights

Over the year, of the 1,043 articles carried in our average 37 pages per issue, 246 originated mostly with our eastern Canada correspondent Dave Rogalsky, 183 in Manitoba mostly by Evelyn Rempel Petkau (who retired in March) and Josiah Neufeld, 90 in Saskatchewan by Donna Schulz, 83 in B.C. by Amy Dueckman, 67 in Alberta by Donita Wiebe-Neufeld and 10 from Quebec from various contributors. Some 968 of those 1,043 articles and opinion had Canadian content, including the blogs. In 2015 *Canadian Mennonite* printed 33 Mennonite Church Canada releases, most of which also appeared online, and *From our Leaders* columns featuring Mennonite Church Canada writers for 12 of the 24 issues. An additional 13 stories appeared on the website only. The most frequent topics were, in highest to lowest order: Mennonite Central Committee, Mennonite World Conference, Conrad Grebel University College, books, the LGBTQ issue, same-sex marriage and Canadian Mennonite University. What letters and online comments mostly discussed, in top-down order, were: same-sex marriage, LGBTQ, Ron Sider’s feature, homosexuality, biblical interpretation, inclusion/exclusion, the Bible, and human sexuality.

Circulation and finances

Our circulation, under the Every Home Plan, has decreased over the year by 1,000 subscribers, due mostly to several churches leaving Mennonite Church Canada and by death of long-time subscribers. It now stands at a little under 12,000. Of the \$699,317 income in our budget, \$255,245 (or 36 percent came from Mennonite Church Canada and the area churches under provisions of a Publishing Partnership Covenant. Mennonite Church Canada contributed \$118,311; MC Eastern Canada, \$72,388, MC Manitoba, 27,968; MC Saskatchewan, \$18,645; MC British Columbia, \$10,358 and MC

Alberta, \$7,574. We are grateful for this ongoing and sustaining financial support. Representing Mennonite Church Canada on our 11-member board are Doreen Martens and Bryan Moyer Suderman (Ontario) and Henry Krause (BC). Linda Matties represents MCBC, Kuen Yee, Alberta; Bryce Miller, Saskatchewan, Ken Reddig, Manitoba, Tim Reimer, Ontario. Representing Canadian Mennonite Publishing Service are Carl DeGurse (Manitoba), Tobi Thiessen (Ontario) and Lois Epp (Alberta). Tobi Thiessen is chair of the board.



Staff and home office

There has been no turnover in staff this year, with the exception of Natasha Krahn filling in for Lisa Jacky as circulation/finance manager, while the latter is on a year's maternity leave. Ross Muir continues as managing editor, assisted by Barb Draper; Ginny Hostetler is web editor, Michael Hostetler is advertising and marketing director, and Dan Johnson, graphic designer.

Digital readers

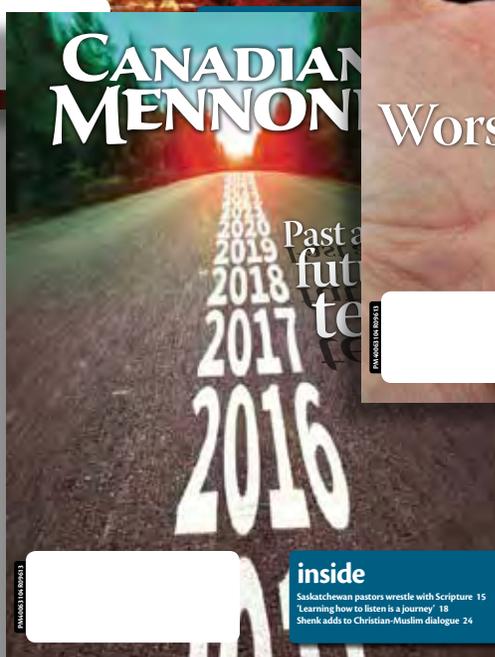
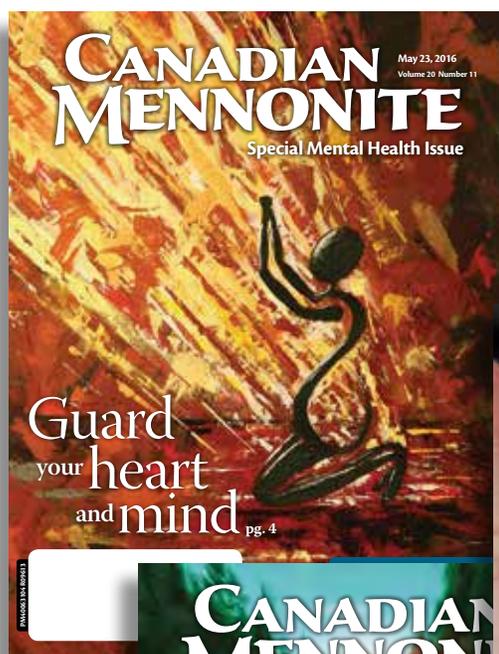
In March 2015 we redesigned our website, updating the look, and making it more user-friendly and more easily accessible on mobile devices. Up to that point the Young Voices content was on a separate site, but it became integrated into the main website. The website saw an increase in page views from 187,741 in 2014 to 241,293 views in 2015. There was a 53 percent increase in the number of returning visitors to the website and an increase of 64 percent in the number of new visitors. Our continued active presence on Facebook and Twitter drove approximately 35 percent of the online sessions.

The future

This is a crucial moment in *Canadian Mennonite's* history. Mennonite Church Canada's financial support is declining while our government grant is increasing each year. When I came on board as editor/publisher in 2009, Mennonite Church Canada's annual commitment to CM was \$158,235. Next year's commitment (2016) is for \$111,631—a 29 percent decrease. The five area churches have not decreased

their support. Our Partnership Covenant expires next year—2017. If the delegates accept the Future Directions Task Force recommendations regarding Mennonite Church Canada, that body is being disbanded by the next year, so they will make no such commitment going forward. Unless the five regional clusters of congregations (the proposed structure of the FDTF), pick up the \$111,631 commitment to CM, we will likely not continue as a national publication. That would be a very sad day for a uniting force that has served our churches for more than six decades, as the "village square" for conversation and information about each other.

Dick Benner, editor and publisher
Feb. 18, 2016



Operations and Finance Report

Included in the Operations and Finance portfolio are Property Management, Information Technology (IT), Pension Plan, Benefits Plan, Human Resources, Records Management, Program and Personnel Evaluations as well as the Finance Department. Following are some updates on our activities since our Assembly in 2014

Property Management and Information Technology

In January 2015 CommonWord Bookstore and Resource Centre officially opened its doors in the brand-new Marpeck Commons building on the Canadian Mennonite University campus. In addition to CommonWord, Marpeck Commons shares its open-concept space with the CMU Library and Folio Café. Moving the Resource Centre has created a vacancy in the Mennonite Church Canada office. We have repurposed that space into 4 offices with the goal of creating space efficiencies together with Mennonite Church Manitoba.

Pension Plan

A pension plan survey of members in 2014 indicated a strong desire for a more diverse portfolio with more socially responsible options. In 2015 we chose Industrial Alliance as our new pension provider. The transition went very smoothly. The volunteer members of the Pension Advisory Committee are John Goossen, Paul Klassen, Darryl Loewen and Ed Heide.

Benefits Plan:

In December 2015, our health insurance benefits were reviewed by our consultant. Our claim history shows that our plan is being well utilized. Based on our usage, we saw an increase to our health and dental costs of 10.2%. If our usage continues in this pattern, we will see an increase again in future years. Plan members are encouraged to claim responsibly and "shop around" for lower-cost service providers.

Staffing Update:

Since the writing of the last Assembly report, we have said goodbye to Moses Falco, Graphic Designer (Communications); Vic Thiessen, CAO & Executive Minister, Church Engagement, Dave Bergen, CAO & Executive Minister Christian Formation Lois Bergen, Executive Assistant, Christian Formation ; Elsie Rempel, Formation Consultant; Monica Krahn, Partnerships Coordinator;

Kirsten Schroeder, Director, Human Resources; Diane Hiebert, Term Administrative Assistant, and Randy Wiebe, Chief Financial Officer. Since Assembly 2014 we have also welcomed some new term and volunteer staff: Matt Veith, Term Multimedia Artist; Irma Sulistyorini, Volunteer Communications Assistant (placed through MCC's IVEP program); Selena Dyck, Term Assembly Administrative Assistant, Cindy Warren, Term Executive Assistant to the Executive office, Allan Wainright Term Contract Finance Consultant. Kara Ledohowski, Executive Assistant to the Executive office, is currently on maternity leave.

Human Resources (HR)

With the changes to staffing, the functions and structure of our HR department have shifted to Mennonite Church Canada's executive team. We continue to navigate our changing reality and utilize a number of resources available to us for Human Resource support. Pension and Benefits continue to be coordinated by Laura Zacharias.

Finance Update

Since our last Assembly our Finance department has successfully navigated us through 2 fiscal year ends and their respective audits. Our latest year end was processed with the assistance of the finance department of Mennonite Church Manitoba. We are grateful for their willingness, ability and flexibility in assisting us with this.

-Coreena Stewart, Chief Administrative Officer and Director, Church Engagement - Administration

Current Operations and Finance Staff:

Nyoman Klassen, Bookkeeper & Accounts Payable Administrator

Dianne Schmidt, Accounts Receivable Administrator

Coreena Stewart, CAO

Janelle Thiessen van Esch, Reception

Laura Zacharias, Payroll and Benefits Accounting

Financial Statements of

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Year ended January 31, 2016

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Audited Financial Statements
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Year ended January 31, 2016

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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, 2016, 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 accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, 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, 2016, its results of operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

KPMG LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants

April 15, 2016

Winnipeg, Canada

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Statement of Financial Position

January 31, 2016, with comparative information for 2015

			2016	2015
	General Fund	Capital Fund	Total	Total
Assets				
Current assets:				
Cash	\$ 1,770,026	\$ -	\$ 1,770,026	\$ 2,413,375
Accounts receivable (note 3)	295,461	-	295,461	361,047
Prepaid expenses	59,586	-	59,586	25,320
	<u>2,125,073</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,125,073</u>	<u>2,799,742</u>
Inter-fund balance receivable (payable)	(58,336)	58,336	-	-
Investments (note 4)	2,241,953	-	2,241,953	2,084,242
Investment in joint venture	38,247	-	38,247	-
Capital assets (note 5)	-	322,141	322,141	50,813
	<u>\$ 4,346,937</u>	<u>\$ 380,477</u>	<u>\$ 4,727,414</u>	<u>\$ 4,934,797</u>

Liabilities, Deferred Contributions and Fund Balances

Current liabilities:				
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (note 6)	\$ 467,708	\$ 240,000	\$ 707,708	\$ 382,738
Other loans payable	18,548	-	18,548	20,083
Deferred contributions (note 7)	1,536,835	2,495	1,539,330	1,421,071
Total liabilities and deferred contributions	<u>2,023,091</u>	<u>242,495</u>	<u>2,265,586</u>	<u>1,823,892</u>
Fund balances:				
Invested in capital assets	-	70,644	70,644	32,654
Externally restricted (note 8)	305,126	-	305,126	302,076
Internally restricted (note 9)	2,018,720	67,338	2,086,058	2,776,175
	<u>2,323,846</u>	<u>137,982</u>	<u>2,461,828</u>	<u>3,110,905</u>
	<u>\$ 4,346,937</u>	<u>\$ 380,477</u>	<u>\$ 4,727,414</u>	<u>\$ 4,934,797</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

On behalf of the Board:

4 A Idelbrand Director

John Jones Director

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Statement of Operations

Year ended January 31, 2016, with comparative information for 2015

	General Fund	Capital Fund	2016 Total	2015 Total
Revenues for MC Canada programs:				
Donations and bequests	\$ 3,065,908	\$ —	\$ 3,065,908	\$ 3,346,042
Investment income	52,049	—	52,049	125,438
Sales, services and fees	142,913	—	142,913	331,248
Grants from partner agencies	12,650	—	12,650	26,142
Amortization of deferred contributions (note 7)	70,159	622	70,781	100,093
	<u>3,343,679</u>	<u>622</u>	<u>3,344,301</u>	<u>3,928,963</u>
Revenues for partner programs:				
Donations and bequests	262,684	—	262,684	387,515
Grants	71,415	—	71,415	23,250
Investment income	7,576	—	7,576	8,726
Sales, services and fees	41,818	—	41,818	34,415
Amortization of deferred contributions (note 7)	124,610	—	124,610	127,645
	<u>508,103</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>508,103</u>	<u>581,551</u>
Revenues for related organizations:				
Donation and bequests	537,109	—	537,109	339,018
Sales, services and fees	97,236	—	97,236	93,536
Grants from partner agencies	17,058	—	17,058	53,503
Amortization of deferred contributions (note 7)	68,093	—	68,093	24,872
	<u>719,496</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>719,496</u>	<u>510,929</u>
Total revenues	4,571,278	622	4,571,900	5,021,443
Expenses for MC Canada programs:				
Christian Witness Council (schedule A)	1,592,673	—	1,592,673	1,643,099
Christian Formation Council (schedule B)	734,543	—	734,543	642,533
Church Engagement Council (schedule C)	689,297	—	689,297	654,786
General Board (schedule D)	969,588	—	969,588	993,797
	<u>3,986,101</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>3,986,101</u>	<u>3,934,215</u>
Expenses for Partner Programs (schedule E)	483,409	—	483,409	614,612
Contributions to related organizations (schedule F)	718,565	—	718,565	510,929
Amortization of capital assets	—	35,952	35,952	32,641
Total expenses and contributions	5,188,075	35,952	5,224,027	5,092,397
Deficiency of revenues over expenses before the undernoted	(616,797)	(35,330)	(652,127)	(70,954)
Bi-national asset distribution (note 12) Mennonite Church Eastern Canada (MCEC)	—	—	—	5,359
	—	—	—	47,616
Deficiency of revenues over expenses	\$ (616,797)	\$ (35,330)	\$ (652,127)	\$ (17,979)

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Statement of Changes in Fund Balances

Year ended January 31, 2016, with comparative information for 2015

	Invested in capital assets	Externally restricted	Internally restricted	Unrestricted	2016 Total	2015 Total
General Fund:						
Balance, beginning of year	\$ -	\$ 302,076	\$ 2,631,557	\$ -	\$ 2,933,633	\$ 2,939,426
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	-	-	-	(616,797)	(616,797)	14,040
Transfer From Capital Fund (note 9)	-	-	-	30,000	30,000	(22,488)
Transfer to Capital Fund (note 9)	-	-	-	(26,040)	(26,040)	-
Transfer from internally restricted funds (note 9)	-	-	(682,386)	682,386	-	-
Transfer to internally restricted funds (note 9)	-	-	69,549	(69,549)	-	-
Endowment contributions	-	3,050	-	-	3,050	2,655
Balance, end of year	\$ -	\$ 305,126	\$ 2,018,720	\$ -	\$ 2,323,846	\$ 2,933,633
Capital Fund:						
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 32,654	\$ -	\$ 144,618	\$ -	\$ 177,272	\$ 186,803
Deficiency of revenues over expenses	(35,330)	-	-	-	(35,330)	(32,019)
Transfer to General Fund (note 9)	-	-	(30,000)	-	(30,000)	-
Transfer from General Fund (note 9)	6,040	-	20,000	-	26,040	22,488
Transfer from internally restricted funds (note 9)	67,280	-	(67,280)	-	-	-
Balance, end of year	\$ 70,644	\$ -	\$ 67,338	\$ -	\$ 137,982	\$ 177,272

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended January 31, 2016, with comparative information for 2015

	2016	2015
Cash provided by (used in):		
Operations:		
Deficiency of revenues over expenses	\$ (652,127)	\$ (17,979)
Items not involving cash:		
Amortization of capital assets	35,952	32,641
Amortization of deferred contributions	(622)	(622)
Change in non-cash operating working capital:		
Accounts receivable	65,586	(55,134)
Prepaid expenses	(34,266)	34,600
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	324,970	(97,007)
Accrued income (loss) on investments	11,066	(25,627)
Change in deferred contributions relating to General Fund	118,881	26,322
	<u>(130,560)</u>	<u>(102,806)</u>
Financing:		
Endowment contributions received	3,050	2,655
Decrease in other loans payable	(1,535)	(5,250)
	<u>1,515</u>	<u>(2,595)</u>
Investing:		
Additions to capital assets	(307,280)	(11,352)
Decrease (increase) in investments, net	(168,777)	161,218
Investment in joint venture	(38,247)	-
	<u>(514,304)</u>	<u>149,866</u>
Increase (decrease) in cash	(643,349)	44,465
Cash, beginning of year	2,413,375	2,368,910
Cash, end of year	<u>\$ 1,770,026</u>	<u>\$ 2,413,375</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended January 31, 2016

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:

The financial statements have been prepared by management in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and include the following 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.

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2016

2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

(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.

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.

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2016

2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

(c) Joint venture:

The investment in CommonWord which is jointly owned and controlled is accounted for using the equity method. In accordance with the equity method, the carrying value of MC Canada's investment in CommonWord is adjusted by MC Canada's share of the excess of revenue over expenses of CommonWord.

(d) 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 leasehold improvements is 20 years and for vehicles, equipment and furnishings is 5 years. Amortization expense is reported in the Capital Fund.

(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. During the year ended January 31, 2016, MC Canada made employer contributions for its employees to the plan in the amount of \$104,621 (2015 - \$101,875).

MC Canada is also a member of a health cost sharing plan incorporated in the United States, covering certain employees working overseas. Contributions to the plan are expensed as incurred.

(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 instruments are recorded at fair value on initial recognition. Freestanding derivative instruments that are not in a qualifying hedging relationship and equity instruments that are quoted in an active market are subsequently measured at fair value. All other financial instruments are subsequently recorded at cost or amortized cost, unless management has elected to carry the instruments at fair value. MC Canada has not elected to carry any such financial instruments at fair value.

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2016

2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

Investments in pooled funds are carried at fair value. The change in fair value of investments for the year is recognized in investment income in the statement of operations.

Transaction costs incurred on the acquisition of financial instruments measured subsequently at fair value are expensed as incurred. All other financial instruments are adjusted by transaction costs incurred on acquisition and financing costs, which are amortized using the straight-line method.

Financial assets are assessed for impairment on an annual basis at the end of the fiscal year if there are indicators of impairment. If there is an indicator of impairment, MC Canada determines if there is a significant adverse change in the expected amount or timing of future cash flows from the financial asset. If there is a significant adverse change in the expected cash flows, the carrying value of the financial asset is reduced to the highest of the present value of the expected cash flows, the amount that could be realized from selling the financial asset or the amount MC Canada expects to realize by exercising its right to any collateral. If events and circumstances reverse in a future period, an impairment loss will be reversed to the extent of the improvement, not exceeding the initial carrying value.

(h) Use of estimates:

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. Significant items subject to such estimates and assumptions include the carrying amount of capital assets and the fair value of investments. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

3. Accounts receivable:

	2016	2015
Donations receivable	\$ 230,984	\$ 286,594
Other	64,477	74,453
	<u>\$ 295,461</u>	<u>\$ 361,047</u>

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2016

4. Investments:

	2016	2015
Mennonite Foundation of Canada:		
Annuities	\$ 16,730	\$ 18,266
Church Building Fund Trust	452,844	448,092
Endowments, bequests and other	1,650,398	1,510,370
Canada Life Insurance Company	118,391	102,629
Crosstown Civic Credit Union surplus shares	3,590	4,885
	<u>\$ 2,241,953</u>	<u>\$ 2,084,242</u>

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 and a guaranteed fund.

5. Capital assets:

	2016		2015	
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net book value	Net book value
Land	\$ 983	\$ -	\$ 983	\$ 983
Buildings:				
Witness field properties	80,767	80,767	-	105
Heritage Centre	694,774	672,680	22,094	28,755
Conference administration	787,191	787,191	-	-
Leasehold improvements	240,000	12,000	228,000	-
	<u>1,802,732</u>	<u>1,552,638</u>	<u>250,094</u>	<u>28,860</u>
Vehicles, equipment and furnishings	809,040	737,976	71,064	20,970
	<u>\$ 2,612,755</u>	<u>\$ 2,290,614</u>	<u>\$ 322,141</u>	<u>\$ 50,813</u>

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, 2016 and January 31, 2015, no amounts are drawn on the facility.

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2016

6. Accounts payable and accrued liabilities:

Included in accounts payable and accrued liabilities are government remittances payable of \$148 (2015 - \$51,137) which includes amounts payable for provincial sales tax and payroll taxes.

7. 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 income if any, 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, 2016 and 2015, no such income was earned based on the policy.

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

	January 31, 2016	Investment income	Received and not disbursed	Recognized as revenue	January 31, 2015
MC Canada programs:					
Witness Council:					
Witness Bequest Fund	\$ 913,617	\$ -	\$ 268,488	\$ (58,108)	\$ 703,237
Native ministries:					
Emergency Support Fund	4,127	-	-	-	4,127
Jeremiah's Dream	-	-	-	-	-
Language training	-	-	-	-	-
Native education	-	-	-	-	-
Botswana	4,000	-	-	-	4,000
Mexico - Cuauthemoc	4,564	-	-	-	4,564
Africa Entrepreneurship	5,000	-	-	-	5,000
Church Building Fund	442,191	-	-	-	442,191
	1,373,499	-	268,488	(58,108)	1,163,119
Formation Council:					
Formation Bequest Fund	47,305	-	4,730	(4,730)	47,305
Translation	5,586	-	-	(2,000)	7,586
Leadership training Fund	4,468	-	-	(2,500)	6,968
Russian Mennonite research	4,070	-	-	-	4,070
Anabaptist media	2,746	-	-	(914)	3,660
Pastoral-Counselling Fund	1,978	-	-	-	1,978
Education Agency	6,897	-	-	(1,000)	7,897
	73,050	-	4,730	(11,144)	79,464
	1,446,549	-	273,218	(69,252)	1,242,583
Partner programs and related organizations:					
Partner Projects	30,206	-	25,905	(15,601)	19,902
Kherson Partnership	2,762	-	2,762	(3,702)	3,702
North American Vietnamese					
Mennonite	31,023	-	29,273	(40,539)	42,289
IM short-term assignments	3,764	-	14,691	(5,365)	(5,562)
Eastern Mennonite Missions	-	-	-	(28)	28
MC USA - Join Hands	5,569	-	5,569	(1,198)	1,198
Meseretes Kristus College	1,053	-	1,053	(66,865)	66,865
Company of 1000	(344)	-	29,272	(60,312)	30,696
Abram A. Vogt Legacy Fund	16,253	-	-	-	16,253
	90,286	-	108,525	(193,610)	175,371
	\$ 1,536,835	\$ -	\$ 381,743	\$ (262,862)	\$ 1,417,954

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2016

7. Deferred contributions (continued):

(b) Capital Fund:

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

	2016	2015
Beginning balance	\$ 3,117	\$ 3,739
Less amount recognized as revenue in the year	(622)	(622)
Ending balance	\$ 2,495	\$ 3,117

8. External restrictions on General Fund balances:

External restrictions on General Fund balances are as follows:

	2016	2015
General Board Endowments:		
Conference administration building	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
MC Canada general endowment	8,445	8,445
	<u>108,445</u>	<u>108,445</u>
Witness Council Endowments:		
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>
Formation Council Endowment:		
Company of 1000	150,871	147,821
History archives endowment	25,112	25,112
	<u>175,983</u>	<u>172,933</u>
	<u>\$ 305,126</u>	<u>\$ 302,076</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, 2016

9. Internally restricted fund balances:

(a) General Fund:

	2016	2015
Witness Council:		
Witness start-up	\$ 18,816	\$ 18,816
Witness future projects	8,220	8,220
Missional resources	3,878	3,878
International Ministries	567,508	567,508
Native Ministries	64,353	91,697
Witness medical	15,371	15,371
Asia Worker Housing	65,924	65,925
	<u>744,070</u>	<u>771,415</u>
Formation Council:		
Youth Assembly	18,094	20,760
Resource Creation	4,000	4,000
	<u>22,094</u>	<u>24,760</u>
Church Engagement Council:		
Church Engagement miscellaneous reserve	8,368	13,368
Operations:		
Major repair reserve	22,442	22,442
General Board:		
General bequests received to be used for program expenditures over a 10 year period	185,330	143,425
General	163,295	737,451
New projects	218,665	218,666
MCEC first fruits	251,319	309,588
Mennonite World Conference	-	10,000
	<u>818,609</u>	<u>1,419,130</u>
Partner programs:		
Learning Tour	20,005	20,005
MVSA Partnership reserve	38,360	34,998
Der Bote	11,354	13,354
Gallery	131,556	151,221
Archives	46,962	42,504
Company of 1000	42,045	38,019
Mennonite Women Canada	112,855	80,341
	<u>403,137</u>	<u>380,442</u>
	<u>\$ 2,018,720</u>	<u>\$ 2,631,557</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, 2016

9. Internally restricted fund balances (continued):

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

- (i) \$682,386 (2015 - \$97,967) from the General Fund's internally restricted funds to the General Fund's unrestricted funds to cover program expenses for the year.
- (ii) \$69,549 (2015 - \$89,519) to the General Fund's internally restricted funds from the General Fund's unrestricted funds to cover future program expenses.
- (iii) \$20,000 (2015 - \$16,448) to the Capital Fund's internally restricted funds and \$6,040 (2015 - \$6,040) to the invested in capital assets from the General Fund's unrestricted funds for current and future capital acquisitions.
- (iv) \$67,280 (2015 - \$11,352) from the Capital Fund's internally restricted funds to cover current year capital asset acquisitions.
- (v) \$30,000 (2015 - nil) from the Capital Fund's internally restricted funds to cover capital expenditures.

(b) Capital Fund:

	2016	2015
General capital	\$ 67,338	\$ 144,618

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

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2016

10. Related party transactions:

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

In prior years, MC Canada committed to fund \$240,000 in capital expenditures to be carried out as part of CMU's Library and Bridge project, and in conjunction with a joint arrangement to operate a resource centre. The amount owing is recorded in accounts payable and accrued liabilities at January 31, 2016 and was paid subsequent to year-end from cash on hand.

- (b) Menno Media:

Menno Media, previously known as Mennonite Publishing Network, 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 Menno Media's board of directors. During the year, MC Canada contributed \$24,317 to Menno Media (2015 - \$61,370).

- (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 2016, MC Canada was paid \$78,696 (2015 - \$68,347) by GRS for services provided by MC Canada in relation to administering the plan with \$3,878 (2015 - nil) in accounts receivable at January 31, 2016.

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2016

11. Financial risks and concentration of credit risk:

(a) Currency risk:

MC Canada is exposed to financial risks as a result of exchange rate fluctuations and the volatility of these rates. In the normal course of business, MC Canada incurs international expenditures denominated in various foreign currencies. MC Canada does not currently enter into forward contracts to mitigate this risk. There has been no change to the risk exposure from 2015.

(b) Liquidity risk:

Liquidity risk is the risk that MC Canada will be unable to fulfill its obligations on a timely basis or at a reasonable cost. MC Canada manages its liquidity risk by monitoring its operating requirements. MC Canada prepares budget and cash forecasts to ensure it has sufficient funds to fulfill its obligations. There has been no change to the risk exposure from 2015.

(c) Credit risk:

Credit risk refers to the risk that a counterparty may default on its contractual obligations resulting in a financial loss. MC Canada is exposed to credit risk with respect to the accounts receivable. MC Canada assesses, on a continuous basis, accounts receivable and provides for any amounts that are not collectible in the allowance for doubtful accounts. There has been no change to the risk exposure from 2015.

(d) Interest rate risk:

MC Canada is exposed to interest rate risk on its fixed interest rate investments that are held in pooled funds (note 4).

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, 2016, Mennonite Mission Network (MMN), the mission agency of Mennonite Church USA informed MC Canada that it had disposed of properties which had been jointly funded by both organizations, with net realized proceeds distributed to MC Canada of nil (2015 - \$5,359).

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Expenses for Christian Witness Council Program

Year ended January 31, 2016, with comparative information for 2015

	2016	2015
Executive office	\$ 128,554	\$ 130,994
National ministries administration	9,935	5,340
Indigenous relations	141,477	176,853
International ministries	1,312,707	1,329,912
	<u>\$ 1,592,673</u>	<u>\$ 1,643,099</u>

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Expenses for Christian Formation Council Program

Year ended January 31, 2016, with comparative information for 2015

	2016	2015
Executive office	\$ 285,173	\$ 195,403
Resource Centre	163,283	160,212
Ministerial and congregational leadership	94,386	100,388
Youth ministry	5,396	4,088
Youth assembly	6,215	-
Canadian Mennonite University grants	180,090	182,442
	<u>\$ 734,543</u>	<u>\$ 642,533</u>

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Expenses for Church Engagement Council Program

Year ended January 31, 2016, with comparative information for 2015

	2016	2015
Executive office	\$ 91,958	\$ 128,584
Communications	269,465	234,440
Development	206,605	171,694
Canadian Mennonite	121,269	120,068
	<u>\$ 689,297</u>	<u>\$ 654,786</u>

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Expenses for General Board

Year ended January 31, 2016, with comparative information for 2015

	2016	2015
Administration	\$ 333,436	\$ 315,450
Finance	309,332	247,334
Foreign exchange gain	(16,026)	(4,924)
Operations	306,209	268,705
Assembly	8,137	138,732
Mennonite World Conference grants	28,500	28,500
	<u>\$ 969,588</u>	<u>\$ 993,797</u>

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Expenses for Partner Programs

Year ended January 31, 2016, with comparative information for 2015

	2016	2015
Partner Projects/New Initiatives	\$ 34,671	\$ 33,363
Christian Peacemaker Teams	-	173,566
Company of 1000	56,309	55,812
North American Vietnamese Mennonite Fellowship	67,988	52,379
Philippine Partnership	14,447	23,943
Mennonite Voluntary Service Adventure	2,279	4,322
Kherson	8,490	8,520
Mennonite Women Canada	27,582	19,895
Mennonite Heritage Centre archives	120,189	73,555
Mennonite Heritage Centre gallery	113,616	117,035
IM short-term assignments	37,838	52,222
	\$ 483,409	\$ 614,612

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Contributions to Related Organizations

Year ended January 31, 2016, with comparative information for 2015

	2016	2015
Mennonite Mission Network	\$ 46,341	\$ 79,092
Mennonite Church USA	7,952	7,983
Associated Mennonite Bible Seminary	69,581	72,823
Canadian Mennonite University	96,305	91,255
Menno Media	24,117	61,370
Meseretes Kristos College	450,153	135,953
Eastern Mennonite Missions	16,449	36,741
Mennonite World Conference	165	18,212
Mennonite Church Eastern Canada	7,502	7,500
	<u>\$ 718,565</u>	<u>\$ 510,929</u>

OUR VISION

God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world.

STATEMENT OF IDENTITY AND PURPOSE

God calls, equips and sends the church to engage the world with the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We are a community of disciples of Jesus, a part of the Body of Christ, covenanted together as congregations, area churches, and a national church body.

Gratefully responding to God's initiatives and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves and our resources to calling, equipping and sending the church to engage the world with the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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OUR PRIORITIES:

To engage the world with the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ, we will:

Form a people of God
Become a global church
Grow leaders for the church

CORE PROCESSES FOR EACH PRIORITY

Form a People of God by:

- Discerning, calling forth, and equipping the gifts of the Spirit that are among and within us;
- Discerning the "signs of the times," the terrain in which we minister and need to engage;
- Nurturing and strengthening the "body-life" of our people-hood;
- "Extending our table;" being intentional about inviting people into relationship with Jesus Christ, and nurturing our capacity for hospitality within the life of our community

Become a global church by:

- Strengthening our capacity to engage with and learn from the diversity that God nurtures among us and beyond us;
- Committing to reconciling ministry "from across the street to around the world;"
- Nurturing a growing accountability to the global communion of faith, especially to the community of Anabaptists;
- Embracing and fostering our Mennonite identity as a perspective of Christian faith within all cultures and ethnic identities.

Grow leaders for the church by:

- Strengthening the family and the home as a seed-bed for emerging church leadership;
- Becoming more intentional about broadly based leadership training;
- Focusing resources on educating pastors to be leaders and some leaders to become pastors;
- Encouraging new models and styles of leadership for a missional church.