



# Gathering 2019



Igniting the Imagination  
of the Church

*Mennonite Church Canada  
Gathering 2019  
Abbotsford, B.C.  
June 28 to July 1, 2019*

## Report Book



**Mennonite  
Church  
Canada**

## FROM OUR HOSTS



*Garry Janzen, MCBC Executive Minister*



Mennonite Church British Columbia welcomes the nationwide Mennonite Church to Gathering 2019 on the West Coast in Abbotsford, B.C.!

While the future still unfolds and becomes, the Spirit of God is "Igniting the Imagination of the Church." Things are not as they once were in the church and in society. We are saying that the local congregation is the foundational unit of the church. We are seeing that the roles of the Regional and nationwide Churches are to bring together, celebrate, and resource these local missional communities. We will hear Firestarter Stories throughout the Gathering weekend, which will help us learn from each other about what ignites our imaginations and how we are living into these new practices.

Mennonite Church Canada is now organized as the collaboration of the five Regional Churches. The expectation is that the work that we do together has its source and foundation in our local congregations. A new example of this work is the Witness Support Teams, which are being formed around each of our mission projects by folks in connected congregations.

We are meeting in a hotel, but we have encouraged folks to feel free to stay wherever they want in order to save some money. To meet virtually certainly has its benefits, but to nurture our nationwide Church we choose to come together regularly as our nationwide community of faith. For future Gatherings, we will continue to look for creative options that are accessible for everyone and that continue to reduce our ecological footprint.

We are particularly excited about officially welcoming newly appointed MC Canada Executive Minister Doug Klassen into his new role. We are also excited about all the learning opportunities this weekend, including plenaries by Dr. Elaine Heath, Firestarter Stories, workshops, and excursions. The worship team has also worked really hard to provide a rich experience of being in God's presence throughout Gathering 2019.

This is our first nationwide Gathering since the restructuring of MC Canada in October 2017. We hope you experience a forward-looking freshness at this event. We hope you will meet familiar faces and engage in conversations with new people that lead to lasting relationships. The church continues to move into uncharted waters on this journey of change. May we navigate these waters well as the Spirit of God blows wind into our sails.

Garry Janzen  
Executive Minister  
Mennonite Church British Columbia

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## How to use this Gathering Book

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

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 nationwide Church.

## The Purpose of Mennonite Church Canada Delegate Gatherings

The purpose of regular Delegate Gatherings shall be to:

- receive written reports from the Joint Council as well as any committees, ministries and/or other advisory bodies of MC Canada with respect to their yearly activities, plans and relevant financial statements for consideration by the delegates;
- act upon the slate of nominees for elected positions, as presented by the Nominating Committee of MC Canada and to hold such elections, except where the Joint Council determines it is necessary to hold such elections at a special Delegate Gathering; and
- transact any other necessary business.

*(MC Canada Bylaw 10.2)*

## Abbreviations

AMBS.....Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary  
ANiSA.....Anabaptist Network in South Africa  
CCAL.....Canadian Council of Anabaptist Leaders  
CM.....Canadian Mennonite  
CMU.....Canadian Mennonite University  
CPT.....Christian Peacemaker Teams  
CLM.....Church Leadership Ministers  
FLA.....Fall Leadership Assembly  
FPAC.....Financial Policy and Audit Committee  
FYE.....Fiscal Year End  
ESG.....Executive Staff Group  
ISR.....Indigenous-Settler Relations  
JC.....Joint Council  
KAC.....Korea Anabaptist Center  
KPMG.....Auditors for Mennonite Church Canada  
MC.....Mennonite Church  
MC Sask.....Mennonite Church Saskatchewan  
MCA.....Mennonite Church Alberta

MCBC.....Mennonite Church British Columbia  
MCC.....Mennonite Central Committee  
MCCC.....Mennonite Central Committee Canada  
MCEC.....Mennonite Church Eastern Canada  
MCM.....Mennonite Church Manitoba  
NAVEF.....North American Vietnamese Evangelical Fellowship  
(PAR).....peace and reconciliation  
VMCC.....Vietnamese Mennonite Church in Cambodia

Welcome to the Gathering of Mennonite Church Canada! Our 2019 theme, Igniting the Imagination of the Church, is one we trust will spark conversations and engage our imaginations on what God's Spirit is calling us to in the twenty-first century.

Our second year in our new expression of Mennonite Church Canada has already begun to unfold, yet the energy and aspirations we share to be a nationwide community of faith remain as strong as ever. We are reminded of the commitments in our covenant, which include:

- Sharing resources to support nationwide priorities
- Upholding the Vision: Healing and Hope statement
- Strengthening a sense of Peoplehood
- Blessing and supporting each other's ministries as if they were our own and supporting the viability and strength of each congregation and each Regional Church
- Joining in mutual prayer, discernment, and worship
- Aligning ourselves to what God is doing in the world
- Fostering Anabaptist identity across the Church
- Engaging in Anabaptist witness locally and globally
- Cherishing our relationships with each other
- Believing the best about each other
- Developing a nationwide agenda through attending to the needs identified by congregations and attending to the needs identified in the global Anabaptist community

The work of International Witness continues to be a significant priority for Mennonite Church Canada. Whether it is peace building in the Philippines or equipping new pastors in Ethiopia, we recognize that local congregations remain central to the support and continuation of our international work. As we transition to a relational funding model, Witness Support Teams will soon walk alongside our Witness workers and serve an integral role of engaging with congregations and encouraging them to grow in awareness and commitment to this important work. We wish to express our deepest gratitude for the dedicated service of our Witness workers whose ministries abroad have recently ended. We pray that their experience and gifts in church building will be a blessing to our congregations just as they have been a blessing to those touched by God's Spirit through their ministry.

Focus on our Indigenous-Settler Relations ministry continues as Mennonite Church Canada seeks to live into the calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation

Commission released in 2015. Since 2015, we have

intentionally worked on these calls to action. Recently this has included advocating for The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, which helped see Bill C-262 passed in the House of Commons,



*Calvin Quan, MC Canada Moderator*

and publishing material to help Christians grow in their respect for Indigenous spirituality. Living into these calls to action is sometimes unsettling and has tested our commitment to seek reconciliation with our Indigenous neighbours as much as it has challenged us to seek consensus on a complex issue with varying understandings across our nationwide Church.

MC Canada's communication is a growing priority, particularly as we seek ways to strengthen our Canada-wide identity in our new structure. Last fall, our Regional Church communicators conducted a nationwide survey to help us better understand our communications needs. We look forward to processing a recommendation in early 2020 that will consider, among other matters, how we might relate to Canadian Mennonite in an overall communications strategy. In the meantime, we recognize that technology continues to play a key role in how we communicate, and increasingly, a role in how we engage with the life of the church regionally, nationally, and beyond. Planning is underway to develop a new Mennonite Church Canada web platform to replace our dated website. We anticipate launching the new platform in 2020, enabling Regions and congregations to communicate and collaborate in new and exciting ways.

Change and transition have been a hallmark for Mennonite Church Canada over the past three years, particularly as we discern the practical aspects of how we relate to one another around matters of governance and nationwide priorities in our new structure. On behalf of Joint Council, we are thankful for the many leaders, past and present, who have dedicated their time and gifts of

leadership through their service on the General Board and Joint Council of Mennonite Church Canada.

After many years of dedicated service, Willard Metzger concluded his term as Executive Director in the fall of 2018. Willard left a legacy of deep love and hope for the Church that continues to fuel Mennonite Church Canada through our transition and into the future. We wish Willard the very best in his new calling and that his gifts will continue to be used to further God's kingdom.

We are grateful for the leadership of Henry Paetkau in his role as Interim Executive Minister. Mennonite Church Canada has been deeply blessed by Henry's leadership, administration, and pastoral presence during our leadership transition over the past nine months. We express our gratitude to Henry and to all our staff for their dedication as we navigate through this season of change.

We are pleased to affirm Doug Klassen's calling to the role of Executive Minister. His experience, drive, and love for the church are unique strengths he brings to his role at Mennonite Church Canada. Doug's passion for working with people, along with a strong history of building highly engaged teams is a wonderful gift to the Church at a time when we are seeking new ways to collaborate across our nationwide Church.

Thank you for your generosity toward the work of Mennonite Church Canada. May we continue to grow as communities of grace, joy, and peace, so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world.

Calvin Quan  
Moderator, Mennonite Church Canada



*We gather  
to share  
to nurture  
to build  
to strengthen*

## The imagination of the Church

It's difficult to imagine what the multitude gathered in Jerusalem on that first Pentecost experienced (Acts 2) or to fully understand and appreciate how it inspired and transformed them. What we do know from the Acts record is that this movement of the Spirit spread throughout the then-known world – and the world hasn't been the same since! Could any of the first followers of Jesus have imagined that?

What do we imagine when we see the world around us and the churches we are involved in today? Where is the Spirit of God moving among us and in our neighbourhoods?

Since Special Assembly 2017, we have been in a time of transition, which has provided an opportunity to re-imagine the future of Mennonite Church Canada. While it is important to know and understand where we have come from and how we got here, what continues to call and compel us is the Spirit moving in new and unexpected ways among us to fulfill God's mission.

In the words of our Vision: Healing and Hope statement:

*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.*

The covenant among the five Regional Churches which that comprise MC Canada, renewed in October 2018 (see pp. 8-9) calls and commits us, among other things, to "align ourselves with what God is doing in the world" and "engage in Anabaptist witness locally and globally."

Mennonite Church Canada is the nationwide ministry through which more than 200 congregations with over 25,000 members joined as five Regional Churches are seeking to be faithful to this call and commitment "across the street and around the world." I invite you to imagine, as you review these stories and reports, and engage in worship, fellowship, and conversation, how the Spirit might be inspiring you and your congregation to imagine new ways of sharing the Good News in your context and community.



*Henry Paetkau, Interim Executive Minister for MC Canada*

### **1. How does this new structure work?**

We are learning to work together more intentionally and collaboratively in new ways in the "new" Mennonite Church Canada. Congregations are the foundational units of this new structure. That's where vision, mission and ministry are engaged most directly and actively. Congregations gather as Regional Churches to pursue their mission collectively and to engage in nationwide and global ministry through MC Canada. This means congregations and Regional Churches are more directly involved in, and indeed responsible for, the ministry of Mennonite Church Canada in an ongoing way, and not only when delegates gather. One significant example of this partnership was the Mission Consultation held in Calgary from March 29 to 31, planned collaboratively and attended by six-to-eight participants from each Region.

The Executive Staff Group (ESG), which includes the Executive Ministers of the five Regional Churches and the MC Canada Executive Minister, gives leadership to the work of the nationwide Church. The ESG meets monthly, consulting and collaborating on matters of Regional and nationwide interest, and offering counsel to and preparing recommendations for Joint Council's consideration.

Joint Council consists of the moderator and one additional member from each Regional Church, as well as three officers elected by delegates. The Council is entrusted with implementing the vision and mission of Mennonite Church Canada and overseeing its ministries,

Mennonite Church Canada is a covenanted partnership among:

Mennonite Church Alberta  
Mennonite Church British Columbia  
Mennonite Church Eastern Canada  
Mennonite Church Manitoba  
Mennonite Church Saskatchewan

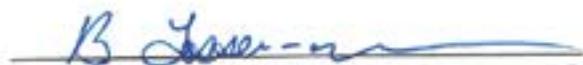
1. The overall mission of the partnership is the vision healing and hope statement.  
Vision: Healing and Hope:  
God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ and,  
by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
to grow as communities of grace, joy, and peace,  
so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world.  
We understand this to mean that we:
  - a. Keep Jesus at the centre of our faith and test our decisions against what it means to be faithful followers of Jesus;
  - b. Rely on the Spirit to guide us in our discernment and to empower us to work together;
  - c. Seek in all our work and decision making to strengthen congregations and Regional Churches to be communities of grace, joy and peace; and,
  - d. Assist congregations and Regional Churches to be agents of God's healing and hope in the world.
  
2. In the spirit of the *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective*, *Vision: Healing and Hope*, the *Shared Convictions of Global Anabaptists* and openness to the movement of the Holy Spirit, we covenant to:
  - a. Share resources to support nationwide priorities
  - b. Uphold the Vision: Healing and Hope statement
  - c. Strengthen a sense of Peoplehood
  - d. Bless and support each other's ministries as if they were our own and support the viability and strength of each congregation and each Regional Church
  - e. Join in mutual prayer, discernment and worship
  - f. Align ourselves to what God is doing in the world
  - g. Foster Anabaptist identity across the Church
  - h. Engage in Anabaptist witness locally and globally
  - i. Cherish our relationships with each other.
  - j. Believe the best about each other.
  - k. Develop a nationwide agenda through
    - i) Attending to the needs identified by congregations
    - ii) Attending to the needs identified in the global Anabaptist community

Review and Changes

Any partner may call for a review of all or part of this covenant at any meeting of the governance body for the partnership.

This covenant informs our governance decisions and therefore will be reviewed in its entirety annually and re-signed after every three years.

Dated the 21 day of October, 2018.

  
Mennonite Church Alberta – Brenda Tiessen-Wiens

  
Mennonite Church British Columbia – Lee Dyck

  
Mennonite Church Eastern Canada – Arli Klassen

  
Mennonite Church Manitoba – Gerald Gerbrandt

  
Mennonite Church Saskatchewan – Terry Stefaniuk

programs, and finances.

## 2. Who are our Mennonite Church Canada staff?

There are currently 11 staff members (9 FTE) carrying forward the mission and ministry of MC Canada, including several dispersed staff. These are:

- Doug Klassen, Executive Minister (began on June 1)
- Andrew Brown, Executive Assistant (until July 19)
- Kathy Fast, Executive Assistant (beginning July 29)
- Arlyn Friesen Epp, Director, CommonWord
- AnaSara Rojas, Administrative Assistant, CommonWord
- Steve Heinrichs, Director, Indigenous-Settler Relations
- Jason Martin, Director, International Witness
- Katie Doke Sawatzky, Communications Officer
- Laura Zacharias, Payroll and Benefits
- Jessica Schmidt, Bookkeeper
- Heather Lumsden, Accounts Receivable
- Sean East, Accountant

They are engaging the enormous challenges of living into the new structure and significantly reduced personnel with great energy, commitment, and perseverance. My deep and sincere thanks to each one!

## 3. How are MC Canada finances?

Implementing a new way of working together as a nationwide Church required imagining a new way of supporting those ministries and programs identified as core to our shared mission, as well as a commitment to provide adequate, reliable financial resources. Regional Churches are the primary funding source, along with individual donors (who are now asked to direct their gifts to and through the Regions). Given the role of Regional Churches in funding MC Canada programs, it is now critical that MC Canada programs and finances be on the Regional agenda.

International Witness programs are supported both through the operating budget as well as relational funding, provided largely through Witness Support Teams. You will read about this model elsewhere.

A huge thank you to our dedicated Finance staff and Allan Hiebert, treasurer, for persevering through the transition to new accounting software, revised reporting templates and schedules, and unpredictable revenue. Sean East was seconded from MCEC as MC Canada Accountant to review and assess financial programs, procedures, and revenue sources (including the status

of restricted funds). He oversees the Finance department and is reviewing and updating finance policies.

As the financial report shows (pp. 57-92), MC Canada was able to end its first year, FYE'19, in this new structure with a small surplus and to propose a balanced budget for FYE'20. For that faithful and generous support we are enormously grateful! Imagining new and creative ways of Canadian and International Witness will require additional resources.

## 4. How do we communicate?

Intercultural communication was one manifestation of the Holy Spirit on that first day of Pentecost. Effective communication can inspire, challenge, connect, equip, and mobilize followers of Jesus today. That's why communication is vital to our relationships across the Church and around the world.

Katie Doke Sawatzky was hired on contract as half-time Communications Officer in November, the first important step in rebuilding MC Canada communications. Communication flows through Regional communicators to individuals and congregations. Katie was tasked primarily with preparation for Gathering 2019, coordinating communication to the communicators and updating the website.

Katie's report includes more about a new website that will integrate, simplify, and enhance congregational, regional,

## Joint Council

- Geraldine Balzer (Assistant Moderator, MC Canada)
- Andrea De Avila (MCM)
- Lee Dyck (Moderator, MCBC)
- Henry Funk (MC Sask)
- Gerald Gerbrandt (Moderator, MCM)
- Alicia Good, (MCEC) (term ended April 2019)
- Ly Vang (MCEC)
- Allan Hiebert (Secretary/Treasurer, MC Canada)
- Arli Klassen (Moderator, MCEC)
- Margaret Kruger-Harder (MCA)
- Betty Loewen (MCBC)
- Henry Paetkau (Interim Executive Minister, MC Canada)
- Calvin Quan (Moderator, MC Canada)
- Terry Stefaniuk (Moderator, MC Sask)
- Brenda Tiessen-Wiens (Moderator, MCA)

**Executive Staff Group**

- Garry Janzen, Executive Minister, MCBC
- David Martin, Executive Minister, MCEC
- Henry Paetkau, Interim Executive Minister, MC Canada
- Ryan Siemens, Executive Minister, MCSK
- Ken Warkentin, Executive Minister, MCM
- Tim Wiebe-Neufeld, Executive Minister, MCA

and nationwide communication, and facilitate seamless connections throughout the system. Feedback from the MC Canada communications survey last year is informing these initiatives. The role of *Canadian Mennonite* in MC Canada communication is part of this ongoing conversation.

**5. Leadership development**

Igniting the imagination of the church requires active engagement of every member of the Body, including the fivefold leadership gifts identified in Ephesians 4:11. Few will dispute that calling, training, and equipping pastoral leaders continues to be vital for the ministry and mission of the church. Yet it remains one of

the program areas without dedicated staff support. Those responsibilities were transferred to Regional Church Leadership Ministers. While this serves us well enough as an interim measure, it doesn't provide the support for or attention to leadership development, which has been identified as a priority across the Church. How will we respond to this challenge?

Postsecondary schools connected to MC Canada and providing pastoral and theological education are:

- Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary
- Canadian Mennonite University (including the Graduate School of Theology and Ministry)
- Columbia Bible College
- Conrad Grebel University College (including the

Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre)

**6. Partnerships and other relationships**

For a rather small denomination, Mennonite Church Canada is engaged in a sizable number of partner, ecumenical, and collegial relationships. Among these are:

- Mennonite World Conference
- Canadian Council of Anabaptist Leaders (hosted by MCC)
- Mennonite Creation Care Network (bi-national)
- Mennonite Heritage Archives
- MennoMedia (bi-national)
- Christian Peacemaker Teams (bi-national)
- Israel/Palestine Working Group (nationwide; mandated by MC Canada)
- Council of International Anabaptist Ministries (Witness, bi-national)
- Anabaptist Witness Partners (bi-national)
- Mennonite Men/Join Hands (bi-national)
- Abundance Canada
- Canadian Council of Churches
- Evangelical Fellowship of Canada
- Anglican-Mennonite Dialogue (Canadian)
- Bridgefolk (Mennonites and Catholics in dialogue; bi-national)

These offer an abundance of resources to inspire, equip and engage the imagination of the church and strengthen our Anabaptist/Mennonite identity and witness!

**Finally**

Thank you for this opportunity to serve the church, which has nurtured and embraced me throughout my life. What a gift and privilege! Despite our failings and differences, the Spirit continues to work in and through God's people, bringing healing and hope into our hurting world as we offer ourselves, our imagination, gifts, and energy in faithfulness to Jesus, the Risen Christ.

Henry Paetkau  
Interim Executive Minister

## July 5, 2016, Saskatoon

1. CONSENSUS: Minutes of the May 16, 2016 General Board meeting were approved as presented.
2. CONSENSUS: Accepted recommendation that the addendum to the SLA 2016 minutes be included in the Assembly 2016 delegate package.
3. CONSENSUS: Affirmed appointments for Assembly 2016: Parliamentarian: Peter Peters; Resolutions committee: Lynell Bergen (General Board representative), Donita Wiebe Neufeld, Greg Neufeld; Listening Committee: Gladys Bender, Chris Lynshen, Moses Falco.

## Jul 10, 2016, Saskatoon

1. CONSENSUS: Affirmed proposal that the Executive Committee appoint a representative to the *Canadian Mennonite* board.

## Nov 11-12, 2016, Toronto, FLA

1. CONSENSUS: Minutes of the Jul 5, 2016 General Board meeting were accepted as amended.
2. CONSENSUS: Minutes of the Jul 10, 2016 General Board meeting were accepted as amended.
3. CONSENSUS: Minutes of the Assembly 2016 minutes were affirmed as amended for delegate approval at the next Delegate Assembly.
4. CONSENSUS: Accepted proposal for accelerating the timeline to complete the Future Directions Final Report.
5. CONSENSUS: Accepted recommendation to extend the financial commitment to the Canadian Mennonite for the Every Home Plan for another year.

6. CONSENSUS: Accepted proposal that the Executive Staff Group create a working group to carry forward the conversation on the Palestine-Israel resolution.
7. CONSENSUS: Affirmed the FYE 2017 budget with acknowledgement that a formal motion for its approval had been omitted at the Delegate Assembly.

## Jan 13, 2017, Teleconference

1. CONSENSUS: Minutes of the Nov 11-12, 2016 General Board meeting were approved as presented.
2. CONSENSUS: Accepted recommendation to publish the Future Directions draft report on the Future Directions website.
3. CONSENSUS: Accepted the CMU proposal on the Mennonite Heritage Center archives as presented.

## Apr 21-22, 2017, Winnipeg, SLA

1. CONSENSUS: Accepted FPAC proposal to recommend the appointment of KPMG as auditor for 2016-2017 for delegate action at the AGM.
2. CONSENSUS: Accepted budget to be presented at the AGM for delegate action.
3. CONSENSUS: Accepted recommendation that there be no fewer than two MC Canada board members in the MennoMedia board.
4. CONSENSUS: Affirmed Witness Council proposal to be referred to the Interim Council for review and further development.
5. CONSENSUS: Accepted appointment of Tony Shellenberg as a member of FPAC.

## Jun 22, 2017, Teleconference

1. CONSENSUS: Minutes of the April 21-22, 2017 General Board meeting were accepted as presented.
2. CONSENSUS: Affirmed recommendation to approve the nomination of Dr. Sara Wenger Shenk for reappointment as president of AMBS for a third term.
3. CONSENSUS: Accepted FPAC recommendations on transfers from internally restricted funds to General reserves as presented.
4. CONSENSUS: Accepted FPAC recommendation that no transfer be made into the General Capital Reserve fund from the General Fund for FYE 2017.
5. CONSENSUS: Accepted recommendation to authorize the Interim Council to prepare and publish the Future Directions (Covenant New) Final Report before the Special Assembly.
6. CONSENSUS: Accepted proposed budget for first year of the MC Canada new structure to be presented for delegate consideration at the Special Assembly.

## Jul 12, 2017, Annual General Meeting - Teleconference (No CONSENSUS items)

1. Affirmed: The General Board affirmed the Nomination Slate as presented.
2. Motion: To accept the Financial Statements and Auditor's report as presented. *Moved:* Allan Hiebert. *Seconded:* Paul Wideman. *Carried.*
3. Motion: To appoint KPMG as auditor for 2016-2017. *Moved:* Allan Hiebert. *Seconded:* Ken Warkentin. *Carried.*

4. Motion: To approve the FYE 2018 budget as presented. *Moved:* Allan Hiebert. *Seconded:* Aldred Neufeld. *Carried.*

#### Jul 12, 2017, Teleconference

1. CONSENSUS: Received draft of MC Canada confession to the LGBTQ community and affirmed timeline to publish in September.
2. CONSENSUS: Accepted in principle an International Witness proposal from MCEC and affirmed that the Executive Staff Group, in consultation with Witness Council, explore the proposal within MC Canada and Area churches for possible development as a collaborative witness project.

#### Sep 5, 2017, Teleconference

1. CONSENSUS: Minutes of the Jul 12, 2017 General Board meeting were accepted as presented.
2. CONSENSUS: Affirmed that the Mennonite Women Canada resolution be presented at the Special Assembly for delegate consideration.
3. CONSENSUS: Affirmed that the Mennonite Men Canada resolution be presented at the Special Assembly for delegate consideration.
4. CONSENSUS: Affirmed the appointment of Lisa Carr-Pries and Willard Metzger to represent MC Canada at the Fall MWC Council meeting.
5. CONSENSUS: Accepted recommendation to publish the MC Canada confession to the LGBTQ community as amended.

#### Oct 13, 2017, Saskatoon

1. CONSENSUS: Minutes of the Sep 5, 2017 Joint Council meeting were accepted as presented.
2. CONSENSUS: Affirmed appointments for Special Assembly 2017. Parliamentarian: Harold Peter-Franson; Resolutions Committee: Bruce Baergen, Laura Carr Pries, David Driedger; Listening Committee: Terry Stefaniuk, Anika Reynar, Tim Wenger; Recording secretary: Lynell Bergen, Don Rempel-Boschman.
3. CONSENSUS: Affirmed the reappointment of Ed Heide to a second three year term on FPAC.

Oct 15, 2017, Saskatoon

1. CONSENSUS: Affirmed MC Canada draft Covenant as amended.
2. CONSENSUS: Affirmed the appointment of Willard Metzger, Calvin Quan, and Lisa Carr-Pries as MC Canada representatives at the MWC General Council meetings in April 2018.
3. CONSENSUS: Affirmed recommendation to approve the nomination of Amy Gingerich to role of Executive Director, MennoMedia.
4. CONSENSUS: Accepted recommendation to schedule future Joint Council meetings on weekend days (Saturday and Sunday).
5. CONSENSUS: Accepted recommendation that all past or departing employees be removed from the list of signing authorities on Mennonite Church Canada accounts.
6. CONSENSUS: Accepted recommendation to update signing authorities of Mennonite Church Canada to be any two of the Executive Minister, Benefits Coordinator, Moderator, and the Secretary/Treasurer.

Dec 8-9, 2017, Calgary

1. CONSENSUS: Minutes of the October 15 Joint Council meeting were accepted as amended.
2. CONSENSUS: Accepted recommendation that Arlyn Friesen Epp represent MC Canada on the MennoMedia Board.
3. CONSENSUS: Accepted proposal to change the MC Canada staff title to "Director, Indigenous/Settler Relations" as presented.
4. CONSENSUS: Affirmed that MC Canada will return to its normal hiring policies with the

- downsizing now completed.
5. CONSENSUS: Affirmed proposal for review and communication of Joint Council meeting minutes as presented.
6. CONSENSUS: Accepted recommendation that MC Canada extend funding commitment to Canadian Mennonite for the Every Home Plan for one year as presented.
7. CONSENSUS: The Process for Developing a Communication Strategy proposal was accepted as amended.
8. CONSENSUS: The Process for Developing a Congregational/Pastoral Leadership Strategy proposal was accepted as amended.
9. CONSENSUS: The International Witness Proposal and the MC Canada Ministry Initiative Development Guide were affirmed as presented.
10. CONSENSUS: Affirmed recommendation that discussion and debate of theological and other divisive issues not be conducted through purchased space in any communication medium. This recommendation will be shared with the board of Canadian Mennonite Publishing Services.
11. CONSENSUS: Affirmed recommendation for the Executive Director to communicate concerns regarding the Fair Share agreement with MWC in a letter as presented.
12. CONSENSUS: Accepted recommendation to remove from our Balance Sheet and Financial Statements the lines for fully depreciated items as presented.
13. CONSENSUS: Accepted recommendation to record a loss on disposal for the remaining,

- undepreciated value of assets as presented.
14. CONSENSUS: Accepted recommendation to transfer the remaining balance in the Gallery Reserve as a grant to Canadian Mennonite University to support the ongoing work of the Gallery.
15. CONSENSUS: Accepted recommendation to delegate negotiation of the sale of the Loon Straits property to the Executive Director and Director of Indigenous/Settler Relations, and to authorize the Moderator and Secretary/Treasurer to sign such legal documents as required to complete the transaction.
16. CONSENSUS: Affirmed the Bylaws as amended and passed at the Special Assembly of Mennonite Church Canada on October 14, 2017, with the correction of section numbers and the addition of the required non-profit clause.
17. CONSENSUS: Affirmed appointment of Betty Loewen as the fourth member in the MC Canada Joint Council Executive Committee.

Jan 27-28, 2018, Vancouver

1. CONSENSUS: Minutes of the December 8-9, 2017, Joint Council Meeting were accepted as presented.
2. CONSENSUS: Accepted recommendation for a fund transfer to cover the costs of the staff Transition Coordinator.
3. CONSENSUS: Accepted proposal that travel costs for the January 27-28, 2018, Joint Council meeting be covered by MC Canada.
4. CONSENSUS: That future MC Canada budgets include cost of travel, accommodation, and

food for all Joint Council and ESG members who attend these meetings.

5. CONSENSUS: Affirmed recommendation on relational funding for International Witness Workers as presented.
6. CONSENSUS: A constituency communication proposal on the International Witness relational funding recommendation was accepted as presented.
7. CONSENSUS: Accepted recommendation to address a letter to the Prime Minister, asking Canada to honour its current position of keeping its embassy in Tel Aviv until a negotiated settlement addresses the aspirations of both sides.
8. CONSENSUS: Affirmed proposal to have MCBC discern its capacity to host 2019 Delegate Gathering and to bring a response to this proposal by the next meeting.
9. CONSENSUS: Accepted the revised Executive Minister job description as amended.

#### Mar 16, 2018, Email vote

1. CONSENSUS: Accepted FPAC recommendations on MC Canada fund transfers to cover costs of the FYE 2018 deficit as presented.

#### May 5-6, 2018, Toronto

1. CONSENSUS: Minutes of the January 27-28, 2018, Joint Council Meeting were accepted as presented.
2. CONSENSUS: Minutes of March 16 Joint Council email vote were accepted as presented.
3. CONSENSUS: Affirmed proposal to draft a communications protocol on responding to formal letters addressed to Joint Council.
4. CONSENSUS: The FYE 2018

Financial Statements were accepted as presented for adoption at the June 16 Annual Delegate meeting.

5. CONSENSUS: The FYE 2019 budget was accepted as presented for adoption at the June 16 Annual Delegate meeting. Formatting edits to the budget prior to presentation will be made by the Executive Committee in consultation with the ESG.
6. CONSENSUS: Accepted the financial guidelines as presented with a note that these are provisional guidelines until more robust financial protocols are developed.
7. CONSENSUS: The Ministry Initiative Development Guide was accepted as amended.
8. CONSENSUS: Accepted proposal for ESG to develop a recommendation for the Regional Representative's terms of office.
9. CONSENSUS: Accepted recommendation for the Executive Director to communicate concerns raised to the AMBS Executive Director on the proposed amendments to the AMBS bylaws.
10. CONSENSUS: The Joint Council of Mennonite Church Canada discerned with the Executive Director that it was the time to seek new leadership for the nationwide church. The Executive Director's term will continue until the completion of his term on October 31, 2018.
11. CONSENSUS: Affirmed appointment of a Search Committee, chaired by the Assistant Moderator, to discern the calling of new leadership.

#### Jun 16, 2018, Video Conference

1. CONSENSUS: Minutes of the May 5-6, 2018, Joint Council Meeting were accepted as presented.
2. CONSENSUS: Accepted recommendation that MC Canada's Staff salary scale be increased to reflect the CPI increase in the past year as presented.
3. CONSENSUS: Affirmed FYE 2019 budget recommendation for adoption at the June 16 Annual Delegate Meeting.
4. CONSENSUS: Accepted funding recommendation for the Mission Consultation proposal as presented.
5. CONSENSUS: The new AMBS bylaws were accepted as presented.
6. CONSENSUS: Accepted recommendation for a communications protocol regarding formal letters addressed to Joint Council.
7. CONSENSUS: Accepted proposal to respond to a letter of concern received from an Mennonite Church Manitoba congregation as presented.
8. CONSENSUS: Affirmed the proposal on accepting distributions of an estate, as they have been made, without contesting goodwill actions of the executors.

#### Jun 16, 2018, Annual Delegate Meeting – Video Conference (No CONSENSUS items)

1. Motion: to accept the Financial Statements and Auditor's report as presented. *Moved:* Allan Hiebert. *Seconded:* Terry Stefaniuk. *Carried.*
2. Motion: to appoint KPMG as auditor for 2017-2018. *Moved:*

Allan Hiebert. *Seconded*: Arli Klassen. *Carried*.

3. Motion: to approve the FYE 2019 budget as presented. *Moved*: Allan Hiebert. *Seconded*: Lee Dyck. *Carried*.

#### Jul 10, 2018 – Video Conference

1. CONSENSUS: Approved the Executive Director's recommendation that MC Canada cover the travel costs of the Director of Indigenous-Settler Relations to attend his court appearance in British Columbia. This approval does not imply Joint Council support for the Indigenous-Settler Relations Director's decision to be arrested.

#### August 15, 2018 – Email Vote

1. CONSENSUS: Accepted Search Committee's recommendation to call Henry Paetkau to the role of Interim Executive Minister for Mennonite Church Canada, beginning October 2019.

#### Oct 20-21, 2018 – Winnipeg

1. CONSENSUS: Minutes of the June 16, 2018, Joint Council meeting were accepted as presented.
2. CONSENSUS: Minutes of the July 11, 2018 Joint Council meeting were accepted as presented.
3. CONSENSUS: Minutes of the August 15-16 Joint Council email vote were accepted as amended.
4. CONSENSUS: Affirmed Regional Church Moderators' signing of the MC Canada Covenant as amended.
5. CONSENSUS: Accepted FPAC recommendation that MC Canada's Salary Scale be increased to reflect the CPI increase in the past year as presented.
6. CONSENSUS: Accepted

recommendation to update signing authorities of Mennonite Church Canada to be any two of the Interim Executive Minister, Benefits Coordinator, Moderator, and the Secretary/Treasurer.

7. CONSENSUS: Accepted proposal that the remaining balance of the MVSA internally restricted fund be transferred to Bethal Mennonite Church, Winnipeg, who will take over administration of the fund.
8. CONSENSUS: Accepted MC Canada Volunteer Covenant as presented.
9. CONSENSUS: Minutes of the August 15-16 Joint Council email vote were accepted as amended.
10. CONSENSUS: Recommendations to guide the renewal of terms for Joint Council Representatives were accepted as amended.
11. CONSENSUS: Proposal for Terms of Reference for 2nd Joint Council Representative was accepted as presented.
12. CONSENSUS: The Guidelines for Responding to Sexual Misconduct were accepted as amended.
13. CONSENSUS: The Protocols for Receipt of Communication were accepted as presented.

#### Oct 29, 2019 Video Conference

1. CONSENSUS: Accepted Search Committee's recommendation to call Doug Klassen to the role of Executive Minister, beginning June 2019.

#### Nov 15, 2019 Email vote

1. CONSENSUS: Accepted proposed letter to the Prime Minister regarding the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as presented.

#### Jan 26-27, 2019 – Saskatoon

1. CONSENSUS: Minutes of the October 20-21, 2018, Joint Council meeting were accepted as presented.
2. CONSENSUS: Minutes of the October 29, 2018, video conference meeting were accepted as presented.
3. CONSENSUS: Minutes of the Nov 15-21, 2018, Joint Council email vote were accepted as presented.
4. CONSENSUS: FPAC recommendations to simplify organization of funds were accepted as presented.
5. CONSENSUS: Accepted recommendation that internal transfers between accounts of MC Canada only require one signature from the designated signing authorities.
6. CONSENSUS: Revised signing authorities for Mennonite Church Canada were accepted as presented.
7. CONSENSUS: Funding recommendation for the development of a proposal for a digital communication platform was accepted as presented.
8. CONSENSUS: Accepted proposal to renew *Canadian Mennonite* covenant and extend Every-Home-Plan commitment for the 2019 calendar year.
9. CONSENSUS: Accepted proposal for policies on Speaking Publicly and Acts of Conscientious Civil Disobedience as amended.
10. CONSENSUS: Affirmed renewal of MC Canada covenant with Mennonite World Conference.
11. CONSENSUS: Accepted budget proposal for direct contribution to MWC for 2019.
12. CONSENSUS: Affirmed the ongoing relationship with the Mennonite Creation Care Network, including appointment

of a second representative from MC Canada, and travel budget.

13. CONSENSUS: Affirmed proposal that costs for Joint Council member travel and attendance at Gathering 2019 events will be covered through the MC Canada budget.
14. CONSENSUS: Affirmed that a proposal be developed for moving the 2021 delegate gathering to 2022 for consideration at the Regional Church meetings, including when elections for the executive positions will be held. Pending Regional Church approval, revised dates to be ratified at the April Joint Council meeting and proposed to delegates at Gathering 2019.

#### February 9, 2019 – Email vote

1. CONSENSUS: Affirmed proposal for the schedule of future Delegate Gatherings, and the elections of MC Canada officers (Moderator, Assistant Moderator, and Secretary/Treasurer) as presented.

#### Apr 6-7, 2019 – Calgary

1. CONSENSUS: Minutes of the January 26-27, 2019, Joint Council meeting were accepted as amended.
2. CONSENSUS: Minutes of the February 9, 2019, Joint Council email vote were accepted as presented.
3. CONSENSUS: Minutes of the October 13-14, 2017, Special Delegate Assembly were recommended for approval at the June 2019 Delegate Gathering.
4. CONSENSUS: Recommended the budget as distributed be presented for delegate approval at the Delegate Gathering.

5. CONSENSUS: Accepted recommendation to apply funds from the First Fruits Fund toward the development of the MC Canada website as presented.
6. CONSENSUS: Affirmed recommendation to appoint Betty Loewen to serve a second one-year term on the Executive Committee.
7. CONSENSUS: Affirmed proposal that Study Conferences focus on pastors, leaders, and those engaged in the theme, while seeking to make the events accessible to a broader audience.
8. CONSENSUS: Received recommendation that a Study Conference leadership group consisting of the Executive Minister and others be formed to plan future events as presented.
9. CONSENSUS: Accepted recommendation that the signing authority for Mennonite Church Canada be revised to Doug Klassen, Laura Zacharias, Sean East, Calvin Quan, and Allan Hiebert as presented.
10. CONSENSUS: Affirmed recommendation that the Moderator respond to a correspondence received from an individual in MCEC and indicate that matters raised in the correspondence fall within the mandate of the Regional Church.

The Church Leadership Ministers (CLM) are the five Regional Church ministers and the Executive Minister of MC Canada. CLM meets online bi-monthly as well as in person twice a year. The primary focus is the development of ministerial leadership and training. The MCM Church Minister currently acts as the chairperson for this group.

The working agenda for the group consists of the following elements, with key responsibility of each highlighted:

1. Ministerial Leadership Information and placements – MCEC
2. Transitioning into Ministry (TiM) – MCBC
3. Denominational ministers bi-national annual gathering - MCSask
4. Adminstrate and coordinate Company of 1000 Loan fund
5. Pastoral Training and Resourcing
6. Policy and procedure implementation

### **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 coordinates this process. Congregational search committees can access information about available pastors through their regional church ministers. *A Shared Understanding of Ministerial Leadership*, which builds upon *A Mennonite Polity for Ministerial Leadership* (1996), 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 Mennonite Church USA.

**Transitioning into Ministry (TiM):** The TiM program was inspired by a similar activity in MCEC that first launched nationally in 2013. TiM is a response to survey information that indicates 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 new pastors receive coaching every two months from an



Rick Neufeld, CLM Chair

experienced pastor, developing reflective habits of resourcefulness with peers to help face the complexities of ministry. CLM gives general oversight in seeking to provide well-seasoned coaches for this important program.

**Denominational Bi-national Annual Meetings:** Each year denominational ministers of MC Canada and MC USA gather for learning, training, and sharing. The three-day event is an opportunity for connecting with one another on common agenda and sharing of resources as well as times of worship.

**Company of 1000 Loan Fund:** The Company of 1000 is a study reserve fund to help pastoral students receive training needed for leadership in the changing world of the twenty-first century and for current pastors to continue to be resourced for ongoing ministry. We receive numerous applications for assistance each year. Due to the MC Canada structure change of 2017 the CLM now acts as the administrators of this fund for leadership development.

**Pastoral Training and Resourcing:** For decades a Master of Divinity has been considered training that best equips pastors for congregational ministry, but the training needed to lead congregations in the twenty-first century is under vigorous scrutiny across denominations. CLM brings together the presidents of the four Mennonite post-secondary schools (AMBS, CMU, CBC, and CGUC) together with national church leaders on a yearly basis. This meeting is a place for dialogue for the schools to hear what the church is looking for in leadership training and for the schools to speak to the church about what they are observing and learning.

### Policy and Procedure Documents and

**Implementation:** The implementation of the Ministerial Sexual Misconduct Policy has been updated and in use since November 2016. It is a document that is shared and owned bi-nationally. Development of a Sexual Harassment Policy for Congregations is being developed and will be completed by the end of this year.

On behalf of the Church Leadership Ministers,  
Rick Neufeld, Chair

# CommonWord

Bookstore and Resource Centre

CommonWord Bookstore and Resource Centre opened its doors in January 2015 as a collaborative business-ministry of Mennonite Church Canada and Canadian



Mennonite University. Over four years, this partnership has nurtured an increasingly diverse set of relationships with our congregations across Canada, the CMU community, the ecumenical church, and wider public.

Our mandate and level of activity have grown since we combined our Bookstore and Resource Centre operations and we are now able to leverage the unique synergy of buying, borrowing, and accessing items online – all from one location. Please take the opportunity – to read, watch, or listen – from the wealth of carefully selected resources at CommonWord that can help ignite the imagination of the Church!

### Loan Circulation

We are pleased to report that the circulation of loan items within MC Canada has remained healthy during the transition to CommonWord and the later adjustments to new denominational structures. This cannot be taken for granted, given that change is constant at the microlevel as well: committee members regularly finish their terms, pastors take on new callings, and congregations face frequent transitions. With such turnover it is gratifying to interact with new borrowers, across the country, each day. People continually “find us” and share their appreciation: “Fabulous book,” “Great service,” “Most helpful.” Overall, the number of borrowers has increased slightly since CommonWord began (up 8.4%), mainly due to a significant growth in ecumenical traffic (now representing 17.5% of our total borrowers – up from

10.2% in 2014). It is gratifying to become a trusted source of material for our mainline, evangelical, and Catholic brothers and sisters.

### Retail Sales

Our retail sales have doubled since CommonWord began. With the hire of a Communications Coordinator last year, plans for a significant website revision in the next 12 months, intentional diversification of in-store product selection and a new partnership with MennoMedia, we anticipate further retail growth. Importantly, our retail customer base is expanding, becoming more ecumenical and more global (as e-commerce sales increase across the country and in the United States). Additionally, our in-store specialty foods, cards and stationery, and Ten Thousand Villages items, together with a steady increase in general book sales (up 41.2% since 2014) means we're less dependent on student textbook transactions, at one time the predominant revenue stream.



### MennoMedia Partnership

A renewed partnership this year with MennoMedia positions CommonWord as the recommended Canadian retailer for their Herald Press books. Our commitment remains to have all these titles available online at competitive prices (and also available to borrow). We encourage pastors, study-group leaders, and other individuals to shop for Herald Press titles here – [www.commonword.ca/go/1420](http://www.commonword.ca/go/1420) (and to visit our display table at the Gathering!). Recent Herald Press titles reflect current social themes from an Anabaptist faith perspective: the opioid crisis, immigration, and artificial intelligence. Other titles speak of the end times, or how we find God in the Old Testament. We also encourage congregations to participate in our new #CommonRead initiative and join others across the continent who are engaging Meghan Good's new book *The Bible Unwrapped*. Ask us about a special discount on small group orders.

To purchase MennoMedia Sunday School curricula

(including *Shine*) and periodicals (including *Leader*), MC Canada congregations are now encouraged to place their orders online at [www.mennomedia.ca](http://www.mennomedia.ca), a recently launched site dedicated to Canadian customers.

### Website Renewal

CommonWord's website will be undergoing a significant facelift in the next year making it more user-friendly with better navigation, greater search intelligence, and mobile-compatibility. [Commonword.ca](http://Commonword.ca) has become an important destination for many. Since 2016, the number of website users has grown by 51% and there's been a significant demographic shift, representing its increasing global reach: fewer overall Canadians (decrease from 55.5% to 34.9%) and fewer Canadians from Manitoba (decrease from 33.9% to 22.7%). We are grateful for these extended connections.

### Together in Worship Partnership

We are especially excited about our partnership with Together in Worship, a new bi-national Mennonite steering group committed to providing free, online, Anabaptist worship materials. This dream, blessed by MC Canada and MennoMedia, emerged from within the current hymnal project, and will be complementary to *Voices Together*. When launched next spring, the online materials will all be searchable through [commonword.ca](http://commonword.ca) and will serve as the digital repository of worship resources for MC Canada, MC USA, and beyond. The "Community-Developed" worship materials that many of you have submitted and have been posted at [commonword.ca](http://commonword.ca) will migrate into this larger Together in Worship collection. And, of course, there will continue to be an open invitation to submit original worship materials going forward. With this partnership we anticipate building a rich, accessible body of materials for congregational use: spoken word, drama, dance, music, and visual art.

### MC Canada Partnership

CommonWord remains the online location for MC Canada and Regional Church resources – from Pastor Salary Guidelines to Joint Council Minutes to Regional Church initiatives. Recent additions include MCEC's SafeZone: Promoting Healthy Boundaries in Christian Camps and MCBC's Reading the Bible Together audio series with Timothy Geddert. CommonWord is also the distributor of the resources produced by the Indigenous-Settler Relations office, circulating over 30,000 Bill C-262 postcards, and over 5,600 retail copies of *Unsettling the Word*, the *Intotemak Trilogy* and *Lifting Hearts off the Ground* through 2018.

### CommonWord on the Road

We enjoy meeting you at conferences and resource events – and are glad to bring materials along! It's a pleasure to be at the Gathering this weekend. In our first four years, CommonWord has attended (or sent materials to) 90 such events. In addition, we regularly send 12 different titles on an extended-loan period to congregations with our Cheaper by the Dozen program. Make sure to ask us how we can help bring CommonWord to your community.

### Committed Staff and Volunteers

We have a dedicated staff of 3.5 FTE (Anita Neufeld, AnaSara Rojas, Josh Paetkau, and Arlyn Friesen Epp) who see their roles as intricately connected to church ministry and customer service. We also have a team of five volunteers who bring energy and skill to our in-store experience and are strong advocates for CommonWord. Several CMU students also reliably fill-in and cover our extended hours. Please know that you can phone (1-877-846-1593) or email ([info@commonword.ca](mailto:info@commonword.ca)) us at any time and we'll help connect you with available Christian resources.

### With thanks...

We are thankful that the church and university see the inherent value of Anabaptist resourcing. With your underlying support we are helping ignite the church's imagination, and build congregational vitality and an Anabaptist identity across Canada and beyond.

### 2018 Statistical Highlights

- Over 10,000 retail customers (up 9.8% from 2017)
- 92,000 website users (up 24% from 2017)
- 542 loan customers, including 17.5% of borrowers from outside MC Canada
- 49% of items borrowed by MC Canada congregations circulated outside Manitoba
- 26 off-site displays (loan and retail) at events across Canada
- 42 Cheaper by the Dozen loan orders to congregations across Canada
- 7 book launches with 411 guests in attendance



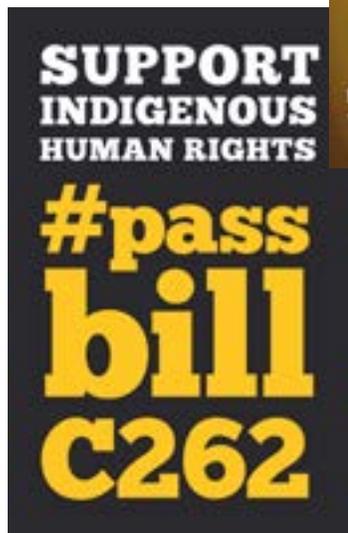
Arlyn Friesen Epp  
Director



Steve Heinrichs, Director of Indigenous-Settler Relations

Four years ago, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission issued its *Calls to Action*—94 actions that Canadian governments, schools, businesses, and faith bodies need to take up in order to repair relationships with Indigenous Peoples. I was there, in Ottawa, with hundreds of residential-school survivors and hundreds of fellow Christians when the calls to action were first read aloud. It's hard to put into words what that moment was like. It was electric. And it was sacred—a “kairos” moment in which we settlers knew that we were being offered a prophetic gift that could radically usher in waves of healing justice. If only we seized it.

That was four years ago. Today I give genuine thanks to God for the many and diverse ways that our church family has responded to the TRC's *Calls*. Congregations are learning about the “Doctrine of Discovery” (Call #49) and how we can “respect Indigenous spirituality” (Call #60). Regional Churches have committed Indigenous-reconciliation working groups that are building integral relationships with Indigenous neighbours. Many constituents are growing in their understanding of what discipleship might look like in these beautiful lands still impacted by colonial violence; they are seeking to follow our cruciform Lord by bending ears to the cries of the oppressed, by giving hearts, even bodies, to works of loving solidarity.



As I write this report, Canada's Upper House has just referred Bill C-262—the Indigenous Rights Act—to the Senate Standing Committee on Aboriginal Peoples. 262 is now one step away from becoming law. Many of us have been mobilizing support for 262 for over three years. Did we know that it would get this far? We knew that the TRC called for legislation that would adopt the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (Call #43). We knew that the TRC had made a preferential option for the *Declaration*, naming it “the framework for reconciliation at all levels and across all sectors of Canadian society” (Principle #1 of the Ten Principles for Reconciliation). But could we get Canada to actually embrace the *Declaration* through legislation (Bill C-262)? “No, not a chance.” That's what the vast majority of people I talked to said before embarking on this journey. But remarkably, a growing pocket within our church linked arms with Indigenous friends and faith groups who decided to “hope against hope” and fight for 262. A leading Senator privately messaged me the other day. “We don't know if 262 will get over this final hurdle. But we wouldn't be here if it wasn't for your people. Tell them to keep on going. We still need them to keep it going.”



God is doing good things amongst us, friends. God is leading us in this journey of reconciliation, helping us attend to the crucified and honour their calls to action. May the Spirit gift us with the courage and resilience to “keep it going.”

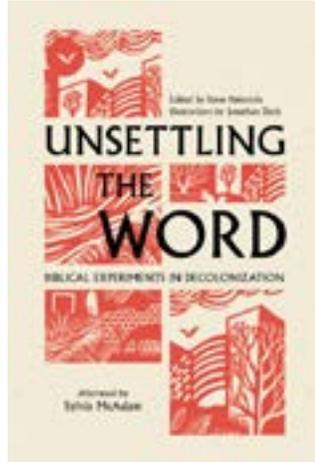
What follows are a few of the ways Indigenous-Settler Relations (ISR) is seeking to nurture just and right relations with host peoples with and on behalf of our national church family. This report is organized around the Four Key Mandates of the ISR program, with attention to ISR's two guiding documents—the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's *Calls to Action* and the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

### Nurturing education and dialogue

ISR seeks to spark and facilitate conversations that centre the priorities of Indigenous peoples in dialogue with the practices and beliefs of our Anabaptist community. Since our last national gathering in 2016, ISR developed a variety of decolonizing and peacemaking resources

for our constituency and the broader ecumenical community, including:

- *Unsettling the Word*: Bringing together over 60 Indigenous and settler authors, this anthology wrestles with the Scriptures, and creatively reimagines the ancient text for reparative futures. Released by Mennonite Church Canada in 2018 and Orbis Books in 2019, more than 2,500 copies have been sold and numerous seminaries and universities are using it in their schools.



- *Lifting Hearts Off the Ground* is a small book that tries to bring the text of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to life through poetic conversation. As a legal text, the Declaration is not the easiest document for many to engage. Yet through the imaginations of Lyla June Johnstone (Dine) and Joy De Vito (settler Canadian), we are invited to contemplate, wrestle with, and pray the words of the Declaration. In so doing, we discover new relationships with each other, the land, and Spirit. *Lifting Hearts* is currently in its second print run; the first was 2,000 copies.
- *Nanabush and Buddha Link Arms* is an exciting new book exploring why treaties matter to peoples of diverse spiritualities. Co-edited by ISR and the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba, contributors to this project come from traditional Indigenous, Sikh, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, Christian, and Animist perspectives. Pitched for a popular audience and equipped with a study guide, we aim to publish with the University of Manitoba Press in 2020.

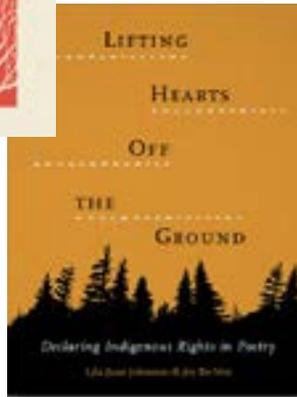
**Building friendships and alliances**

ISR seeks to create and support opportunities for our church family to make connections with Indigenous peoples that strengthen Indigenous-led visions of reconciliation:

- Each year, ISR organizes a constituency delegation to attend NAIITS—the North American Indigenous Institute for Theological Studies. An Indigenous-led evangelical gathering, NAIITS provides a courageous

conversational space for Christians who are seeking to honour biblical and Indigenous knowledges and lifeways. In the last three years, over 50 members of our church family have participated, exploring topics such as the Declaration, white supremacy, and Indigenous perspectives on and relationships to land.

- In the spring of 2017, ISR teamed up with Christian Peacemaker Teams’ Indigenous Peoples Solidarity Team and an Indigenous-Settler Discernment Circle (comprised of leaders from across the country) to organize the Pilgrimage for Indigenous Rights—a 22-day, 600-kilometre walk from Kitchener to Ottawa, Ontario, in support of the Declaration and Bill C-262. Along the way, more than 50 walkers stopped at 18 churches and facilitated public teach-ins, raising awareness of the Declaration and encouraging communities to join us in our call to the federal government to adopt its minimum standards by passing Bill C-262.



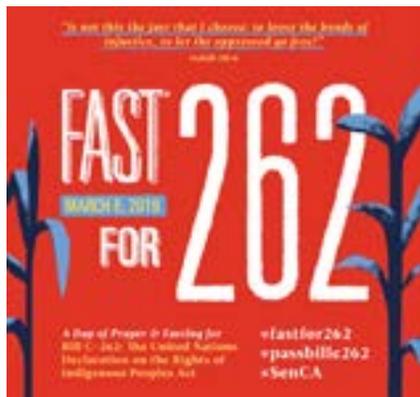
- From May 31 to June 14, 2019, ISR teamed up with Dr. Pat Makokis (Saddle Lake Cree Nation) and the Health Sciences Association of Alberta to organize the Walk for Common Ground—a 15-day walk through Treaty 6 (starting in Edmonton, Alberta) and Treaty 7 (ending in Calgary) to raise awareness about our shared covenants. Stopping at churches, colleges and union halls, the Common Ground walkers—comprised of Indigenous, unionist, and church friends—fostered conversation about why treaties matter, and invited the watching world “to share responsibility for establishing and maintaining respectful relationships” (Principle 6 of the TRC’s Ten Principles for Reconciliation).



**Animating peace and justice**

ISR seeks to mentor and mobilize groups and individuals within the Church to engage concrete peace and justice initiatives that center priorities of Indigenous peoples.

- In the last two years, ISR has partnered with Canadian Mennonite University to create two six-month intensive internships. CMU students, Erin Froese and Allegra Friesen Epp, have brought deep faith and tremendous leadership skills to the work of ISR, and helped organize a variety of mass public teach-ins, advocacy opportunities, workshops, and the two long walks described above. I (Steve) can't say enough about the genuine passion, heart, and sacrifice that Allegra and Erin have gifted our church body with. Christ is raising up tremendous leaders in our midst who are "doers of the word." (Special thanks to CMU!)
- In the spring of 2019, ISR helped spark and organize four mass rallies in support of Bill C-262 in Saskatoon, Ottawa, Winnipeg, and Vancouver. All but the Ottawa event were planned in relationship with Regional Church Indigenous Relations groups (the Ottawa event was facilitated by organizers who worked with the Pilgrimage for Indigenous Rights). Over a thousand people came out in support of 262 at these education and advocacy events.



- ISR joined forces with ecumenical partners to organize both a collective Fast for 262 as well as a joint letter to the Senate advocating for the bill. The Fast began on March 6 (Ash Wednesday) and engaged hundreds who went hungry

in support of the Declaration. A few went on water-only fasts for a week or more to ask Creator to move the hearts of those in power. In part, we took up this spiritual discipline because we sought to remind others, as we remind ourselves, that this political work is fundamentally spiritual (Eph. 6:12). Some months' prior ISR brought ecumenical leaders together to craft a letter in support of 262 to the Senate. After weeks of collaborative writing, 10 denominations and faith organizations issued a missive calling on Parliament's Upper House to "make a non-partisan decision in support of legislative reconciliation." The letter can be found here: [www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/43/20246](http://www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/43/20246).

## Circle and committee participation

ISR seeks to bring Mennonite Church Canada gifts and perspectives to a variety of reconciliation-based circles and working committees, including:

- **Regional Church Indigenous Relations Groups:** Four of our five Regional Churches have active circles partnering with Indigenous communities and/or responding to the TRC *Calls to Action*. ISR joins monthly meetings, helps plan activities, prayerfully discerns next steps, shares resources, and visions and dreams so that together we can do "reconciliACTION."
- **Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) Steering Committee:** Since 1986, CPT has sought to follow the nonviolent Christ by building partnerships around the world to transform violence and oppression. Mennonite Church Canada is a sponsoring body of CPT, along with MC USA, Church of the Brethren, Presbyterian Peace Fellowship, German Mennonite Peace Committee, and the Congregation of St. Basil. ISR represents Mennonite Church Canada on the Steering Committee, seeking to facilitate and strengthen the work of both CPT and MC Canada through a relationship of mutual gifting and collaboration. CPT provides our church constituency with a critical avenue for faith-based practice of nonviolent discipleship/accompaniment. In turn our church helps CPT sustain its vision and its capacity for the work.
- **Ecumenical Committee on Spiritual Violence:** In response to the TRC's call for churches "to respect Indigenous spirituality in its own right...and to mitigate...and prevent spiritual violence" (Call #60), a circle of denominational leaders gathers regularly to discern how we can faithfully respond to this important and challenging task. We are currently exploring the creation of a "Code of Conduct for Missions" that will center the concerns and hopes raised by Indigenous Christians and traditional practitioners. This is slow and careful work, that is attempting to draw on the wisdom of many. I pray that the fruit of these patient efforts might be renewed imagination and strengthened desire for collaborative mission; a costly mission that seeks to address the sin "that does injustice to the most needy," and in so doing, brings more truth, more reconciliation, and more joy to all, and especially the poor" (Ignatio Ellacuria).

Steve Heinrichs  
Director

## International Witness



*Jason Martin, Director of International Witness*

We are pleased to share the good work being done in International Witness that is igniting the imaginations of our people. Mennonite Church Canada's International Witness ministry

connects us with our international partners in 12 countries. Our nine Witness workers primarily serve in North East and South East Asia.

International Witness, like Mennonite Church Canada, continues to navigate a significant transition in how funding is raised for Witness programs, and has responded with the implementation of Witness Support Teams (WSTs). Despite the change in the funding structure, we continue to believe that God calls each of us to participate in God's mission, whether it is across the street or around the world, according to our unique gifts. As we respond to this call, we believe God will lead us to experience mutually transformative relationships through ministries and partnerships of the church, both here in Canada and internationally.

Workers received a working draft of the WST manual and summary documents in early March, along with the directive to invite people to be part of their Witness Support Team. Each Witness worker unit will have a WST. The goal is to have WSTs in place by the Gathering 2019, with each team meeting regularly, praying, and planning for fundraising initiatives for the fall. The WST's fundraising goal is 100 percent of the workers' costs, with a minimum of 50 percent raised by the combined efforts of the WST, Witness worker(s) and Regional Church Engagement staff.

It is important to note that although a key goal of WSTs is to ensure and generate full financial support for Witness programs, WSTs will also help to form and nurture relationships between workers and supporters, offer support and care for workers, create opportunities for fuller congregational engagement, and nurture

international-partner relationships. If lasting relational connections between people are not created through the Witness Support Teams, it will not matter if programs are fully funded – mutually transformative relationships are the end result of our work, thus igniting the imagination of Mennonite Church Canada.

The following is a summary of our International Witness ministry engagements:

### *Africa*

**Benin** - International Witness in partnership with Mennonite Mission Network and Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission provides financial support to Benin Bible Institute (BBI) for church-leadership training and capacity building.

Congregational engagement with Benin Bible Institute is fostered by the ongoing and long-term commitment of Sue Shantz and her home congregation, St. Jacobs Mennonite Church, Ontario, and the engagement of the BBI Networking Group consisting of interested individuals from St. Jacobs, Poole, and Wanner Mennonite churches.

St. Jacobs Mennonite Church Pastor Wendy Janzen, her husband Chip Bender and their two sons, visited La Casa Grande and BBI in November 2017. Visits of this nature are a regular part of the BBI Networking Group's partnership commitment and that of our Beninese brothers and sisters (who also visit North America every other year). Waterford Mennonite Church (Goshen, IN) also regularly participates in these exchange visits.



**Botswana** - Nathan and Taryn Dirks completed their ministry in Botswana in March 2017 after five years of service. The couple and their young son, Malakai, left a great impact on the whole country for having built the first Futsal/sports/enviro-friendly park in Botswana. The

President of Botswana himself came to volunteer during construction. The Futsal park is located in Bontleng, a neighborhood that had a reputation for violence and drunkenness. The Dirks along with their young Botswana partners brought transformation to this neighborhood. Now children can safely play sports together as children ought to.



**Burkina Faso** - Norm and Lillian Nicolson and family returned to Canada (Alberta) in May 2018, concluding 20 years of steadfast ministry in Burkina Faso. Lillian's long-term service included Bible translation into the local Siamou language and church planting in the village of Tin. Norm

assisted Evangelical Mennonite Church of Burkina Faso (EEMBF) members and others in teaching and developing trade skills to enable them to better meet the needs of their families, congregations, and communities.

The Evangelical Mennonite Church in Burkina Faso (l'Eglise Evangélique Mennonite du Burkina Faso) celebrated 40 years of faithful ministry on November 23 to 25, 2018, in Orodara, Burkina Faso. Mennonite Church Canada (and its previous iteration) has enjoyed a blessed partnership with the EEMBF over the past 40 years, including the sending of mission workers who served under the administration of Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission (AIMM).

**D.R. Congo** – International Witness partners with Mennonite Mission Network to support the Mennonite Church of Congo, Evangelical Mennonite Church of Congo, and Mennonite Brethren Church of Congo in their ongoing ministries through AIMM. The Congo Literacy Project reaches the vulnerable in these communities, especially women and children, and is attracting participants from outside churches as well, through literacy classes based in local congregations. Over 260 literacy teachers have been trained to conduct classes, and over 1,500 students are learning to read and write. African Mennonite churches can send mission workers called to church plant through the African Missionary Support project. The missionaries are administered and paid by the national church and AIMM provides annual complementary support for the mission workers. This can

be used to start a small business or provide additional income to help with mission expenses.

Reverend Mimie Kanku and her husband Bellarmé Ngalula have been sent by the Evangelical Mennonite Church of Congo to plant a church in Bandundu Ville, the capital of Bandundu province. Since beginning this work three years ago growth has been steady, and the community has around 100 regular attendees. Kanku is the first woman to be ordained by the Evangelical Mennonite Church. Her sterling work paves the way for more female leaders to be recognized by the church.

**Ethiopia** – Meserete Kristos Church continues to grow annually with nearly 25,000 newly baptized followers of Jesus and 105 local congregations this past year. With this growth comes a pressing need to train leaders. Mennonite Church Canada is blessed by its partnership with both the Meserete Kristos Church and its College. Thanks in large part to the fervent commitment of the MK College Link Canada team, significant funds have been raised to help with student scholarships, and operations and building projects. One building project is a new kitchen and dining hall proposed this past spring. The new kitchen and dining hall will accommodate up to 1,000 people for meals three times a day, and provide a renewed space that can be rented for additional income generation.



**South Africa** - Hippolyto and Miriam Tshimanga, along with their sons Emmanuel (16) and Joshua (11), returned

to Canada June 2018 after completing a two-year term in South Africa. Years earlier, Grace Community Church (GCC) in South Africa extended an invitation to Mennonite Church Canada for a Witness Worker team that could strengthen their Anabaptist identity. GCC is a network of five Mennonite World Conference (MWC) congregations in South Africa. In conjunction with Anabaptist Network in South Africa (ANISA) and MWC, Hippo and Miriam used their gifts in Christian ministry to resource and nurture the leadership and congregations of GCC. "We are grateful to have missionary couples to work with us in our country as this gives us also a sense of

belonging and their workshops benefit more numbers in our communities," said Lawrence Coetzee, Vice-Chair and Coordinator of International Relations for GCC.

## Asia

**Cambodia** – North American Vietnamese Evangelical Fellowship (NAVEF) continues to partner with International Witness to provide financial support for the Vietnamese Mennonite Church in Cambodia (VMCC) through 2017 to the beginning of 2018. Due to a funding shortfall, NAVEF decided to let VMCC be self-sufficient. NAVEF enjoys ongoing fellowship with the Evangelical Vietnamese Cambodian Fellowship (EVCF).

Garry Janzen (MCBC Executive Minister) and Nhien Pham (NAVEF President) visited Cambodia from March 18 to 21, 2019. Garry taught church members from Palmer Becker's What is an Anabaptist Christian?, while Nhien taught preaching to pastors of the EVCF.

**China** - The flames of faith and faithfulness burn brightly among Chinese brothers and sisters. We walk with them in times of increasing political uncertainty, both domestically and internationally, as relationships with Canada become more and more complicated. "We need each other," says Senior Pastor Zhang (pseudonym). "You have deep roots and the theology that we need. We have new growth that needs those roots." We are increasingly being asked to share our roots and the gifts God has given us as Anabaptists with churches in China. Translation of writings, visits, training, and mutual learning will strengthen and change us. Pastor Wang (pseudonym) acknowledges and advises us: "It may be more difficult in these years for us to connect, but that makes it all the more important."



Jeanette Hanson continues a Canada-based China ministry, in response to an invitation from China ministry partners seeking partnership with Mennonites in Canada and the U.S. Jeanette is Associate Director of Mennonite Partners in China and a Witness worker with Mennonite Church Canada.

George and Tobia Veith have been in northeast Asia since 2015. After their first year of language study, both George and Tobia taught English for two years at a local university. During this time, they slowly began building

relationships. Since the beginning of their fourth year (2018), Tobia continues to teach at the university, while George devotes his time to writing, editing, developing educational resources, and further developing relationships. A fledgling movement establishing a peace centre in Hong Kong has also asked George for counsel and direction.



**Philippines** – Christina and Darnell Barkman concluded their service in the Philippines in April 2018. They served since 2012 and established Peace Church, a home-

based congregation in Manila with members from neighborhoods characterized by unemployment and poverty. Peace Church's ministry led to many opportunities to share about non-violence and reconciliation via radio ministries, regular gatherings in the community, special events, and with leaders from the wider church in the Philippines. Designing and building innovative storm-resistant homes with local, ecologically sustainable materials and labour enabled the Barkmans and Peace Church to practice hands-on peace building in the aftermath of devastating typhoons. The Barkmans have resettled in Abbotsford, B.C. Darnell currently serves as pastor of Yarrow United Mennonite Church. Darnell and Christina have four children: Makai, Cody, Teyah, and Jericho.

Witness worker Dann Pantoja (aka Lakan Sumulong) serves as Dream Weaver for Peacebuilders Community Inc. (PBCI) and as Chief Story Teller at Coffee for Peace (CFP).



Witness worker Joji Pantoja (aka Lakambini Mapayapa) is president of Coffee for Peace, and provides administrative oversight of staff and finances for PBCI. For the past three

years, both PBCI and CFP have been developing our two-pronged peace and reconciliation (PAR) initiatives:

**1. PAR COMMUNITY ORGANIZING**

PBCI has organized a PAR community in four more provinces, in partnership with civil society organizations, religious groups, political fronts, business organizations, and government agencies. This adds to the 33 out of 81 provinces that we have reached since 2006.

The challenge is how to nurture these PAR Communities so that they can be firmly rooted, sustainable, and effective in responding to the needs of their socio-historical contexts. Time, staff, and funds are always challenges.

**2. PAR INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT CONSULTING**

We've been developing CFP as a social enterprise to help sustain PAR communities. CFP is now paying full-time salaries with benefits to 16 out of the 18 staff members of the PBCI-CFP community.

In 2017, the Asian Development Bank recognized CFP as a peace-and-reconciling social enterprise. Last year, CFP won the Excellence Award in Corporate Social Responsibility at the ASEAN Business Awards held in Singapore. This year, the United Nations Development Programme acknowledged CFP as a contributor to its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



**South Korea** - Bock Ki Kim and Sook Kyoung Park have begun a Mennonite church in Seoul. They also develop church resources, provide leadership to Korea Anabaptist Center, and continue to network with Mennonite Church South Korea. Sook Kyoung

continues her after-school tutoring program for community children from grade 1 to 7. She loves children and provides a warm environment for children who struggle with bullying, loneliness, and competitive school life.

Since April 2019 the Seoul church plant rents a new larger space since numbers are slowly increasing. The group

has a strong desire to be a congregational and believers' church. Even though it takes time, it is worth being patient to see a radical Mennonite church in Seoul.

Please pray for wisdom, passion, and a joyful spirit as Bock Ki and Sook Kyoung preach, lecture, give workshops and seminars, translate Anabaptist books and materials, write essays, and equip people as Anabaptist leaders in South Korea. Also pray for courage, faithfulness, and a discerning spirit as Bock Ki becomes involved with more peace work. Bock Ki is developing a peace organization related to restorative justice and will create a "Peace Journal," which will be a seasonal periodical on peace issues in the Korean context.

**Thailand** – Tom

and Christine Poovong, and their children Joseph (6) and Phimchanok (8), begin their third term of service focused on planting churches, teaching, and preaching from an Anabaptist perspective, and encouraging income-generation initiatives.



The Poovongs report that one family in Pra Thai, Korat, who were open to the message of Jesus, have come to faith. These new disciples are selling watermelon on land rented for income-generation ministry. Tom and Christine are encouraging a few more families to come to work there also in order to have a steady income.

Laos is a closed country, but God has opened a door for ministry among the Bru people, a tribe living on the mountain near the Vietnam border. Every three months several people from the tribe visit Tom and Christine in Khon Kaen for discipleship training. The vision God gave the Poovongs for Laos is to make disciples who will also make more disciples. Tom and Christine are praying that God will use the Bru people to establish many peace communities in their region.

In the next five years Tom and Christine Poovong and their ministry team Friends of Grace Organization (FGO) aim to establish at least one church or outreach centre in all of the 20 Isan provinces in Thailand. Currently five congregations function under FGC Thailand, and twenty more are in the process of becoming a congregation. There are local disciples in eleven provinces out of

twenty provinces in the Isan region. The goal, in the next five to ten years, is to help these communities of faith be self-sustaining and reproduce throughout Thailand, eventually joining in membership with Mennonite World Conference.

**Vietnam** – Nhien Pham makes annual visits to Vietnam. Each trip builds on previous ones as Nhien seeks to build relationships with the Evangelical Mennonite Church Vietnam (EMCV). During his March 2018 visit, Nhien, together with the leaders of EMCV and members of Canadian Vietnamese churches, visited local churches in rural areas for the first time. The police watched them closely. However, they were free to fellowship, to send greetings, and to share testimonies in the churches. Nhien learned that members of the local churches endured hardship because of their faith for many years. However, their burden had been lightened due to a new policy allowing peaceful church dialogue. Due to peaceful relationship with authorities and the care of the EMCV's leaders, a few former-Mennonite churches returned to the denomination. There are also non-Mennonite independent churches that want to join EMCV.



**Europe**  
**Germany** - Jennifer Otto and Gregory Rabus returned to Canada in June 2018. They were originally invited to plant a church in Mannheim, Germany, in 2012, at the invitation of and in partnership with the Conference of Southern German

Mennonite Congregations and the German Mennonite Mission Committee. Plans changed when Germany accepted a huge influx of refugees from Syria and the partnership shifted to the Conference of Southwest Mennonite Churches. Together, they established a community-building ministry in the Ludwigshafen Mennonite Church.

The couple is fluent in German, and, complemented by Gregory's training in Arabic language, was able to use their linguistic, organizational, and hospitality gifts to develop "Friedenshaus" (Peace House), a community centre for refugees. Friedenshaus offers German language instruction, community-building events, friendship, and

help settling into a new country and culture. Jennifer accepted a position as assistant professor of Christianity at the University of Lethbridge in Alberta. Gregory and Jennifer have two children: Alex (4), and Ian (1).

**United Kingdom** - During their time in the UK, Mike and Cheryl Nimz demonstrated passion for ministry, relationship building,



and commitment to Anabaptist principles. Mennonite Church Canada and The Mennonite Trust enjoyed a mutually beneficial collaboration since 2013, when Mike and Cheryl began their ministry assignment in the United Kingdom. Mike and Cheryl made efforts to connect with people beyond the current reach of the Anabaptist Network and educate them about the Anabaptist tradition. They interacted especially well with young adults and those on the fringes of the church, making effective use of social media as well as face-to-face conversations. The Nimz's conclude their assignment in June 2019 and return to Alberta. We trust that Mike and Cheryl will be able to share their learnings and experiences of ministry in a post-Christendom context with Mennonite congregations in Canada.

### *Latin America*

**Colombia** – International Witness continues to be inspired by how the Colombian Mennonite Church (IMCOL) ignites the imagination of its member churches through equipping and mobilizing to plant new churches, strengthening communities in formation, developing youth and women into future church leaders, and supporting pastors through counseling, retreats, and continuing-education opportunities. Our partnership with IMCOL benefits the many committed Christian men and women who study at the Mennonite Biblical Seminary of Colombia, by providing subsidies for scholarships. More than 300 students, not only from Colombia, but also from Peru, Ecuador, and Venezuela, have received biblical formation from an Anabaptist perspective at the Seminary. Gamaliel and Amanda Falla who served the Colombian Mennonite Church as pastors to pastors concluded their service in March 2018.

### Short-term ministry service

Mennonite Church Canada deeply values those who faithfully serve in short-term ministry assignments in international contexts. The following is a brief summary of the men and women who served the church with their gifts of teaching, discipleship, and evangelism:

- Rene Baergen (Cuba – 2016)

- Palmer Becker (Ethiopia, Tanzania – 2019)
- Werner & Joanne DeJong (Ethiopia – 2018/19)
- Marla & Karl Langelotz (Germany – 2017/18)
- Paul & Vila Phomsouvanh (Laos, Thailand – '16, '18).

Jason Martin  
Director

## The journey of reconciliation at Holyrood Mennonite Church

By Werner De Jong

Holyrood Mennonite Church of Edmonton, Alberta, is a multicultural congregation consisting primarily of older traditional Mennonites and younger West African immigrants. Together we are participating in the adventure of becoming one body that shares leadership and responsibility for all aspects of our life together. The journey is never boring.

Our story has also been one of transformation. At Holyrood, we began our common journey with no clear idea of where it might take us, yet we are finding ourselves transformed into greater Christlikeness through walking the way of reconciliation together. As we have sought to respond to the leading of God's Spirit, we have found ourselves both feeling abundantly blessed by the gifts we offer each other, and also feeling lost and confused over our differences.

After worship on a Sunday several years ago, a senior member of our congregation told me, "I just want you to know that I don't like the African music. I find the saa saa and the djembe irritating. The choruses are repetitive. I prefer the theological richness of the songs in our Mennonite hymnal." Immediately I tensed up, but his next words warmed my heart: "Having said that, I want you as our pastor to ensure that we as a congregation never stop singing the African songs, because it's not just about what I want. As a multicultural congregation, we must be hospitable and make space for each other." The wisdom he voiced is foundational for all congregations that undertake the adventure of learning to be one diverse people in Christ. His perspective also demonstrates the growth potential for our church members as we embrace the journey of becoming global congregations.

Our common journey began in 2001 when Holyrood sponsored four young Liberian men as refugees. Today 40 percent of the congregation—about one hundred active members, with an average Sunday worship attendance of

seventy—is West African, primarily from Liberia, but also from Sierra Leone, Ghana, and Nigeria. Shortly after I arrived as pastor in 2006, I asked one of our Liberian members, "Why did you stay in this church once you arrived in Canada?" His answer was instructive: "We did visit other churches in Edmonton, and every church welcomed us. Week by week they welcomed us. But it went no further than that. Holyrood was the one church that invited us to use our gifts to help serve the congregation. The reason we are here is because we not only want to be welcomed, we also want to participate."



Werner walks around with baby Purity Kumba Favour Bundor, showing her who her people are, loudly saying "These are your people. This is your community, your family. They have promised to care for you and to pray for you. You belong here."

Over time this participation has deepened, as God teaches us that we need each other. We are learning that we all benefit from the various gifts we bring to the table. Toward that end we have made significant progress in embracing the gifts of all our members. Today we have six elders: four are African, including the congregational chair, and two are Caucasian. We sing Western and African worship songs. We have Western and African preachers, Sunday school teachers, worship leaders, and ushers. Our efforts to incorporate different peoples into one body have brought many blessings.

In the end, while we may not always manage to stay on our feet, we are glad that God has swept us together into our shared adventure. We are being blessed, challenged, and transformed by the gift of each other. It is a privilege to participate together in God's mission, to shine the light of God's reconciling love into a world darkened by division. In an increasingly multicultural world, the future of the church is multicultural, and we are grateful to be part of it.

*Werner De Jong is the pastor at Holyrood Mennonite Church in Edmonton, Alberta, where he has served for the*

*past twelve years. He wrote this article in consultation with Holyrood's adult Sunday school class.*

## Following God's rhythm: A West Hills Mennonite Fellowship story of change

By Lisa Williams

The air conditioning on the bus felt good and I relished the cool breeze as people began to take their seats. I turned to the man who had invited us to the Toronto Blue Jays baseball game that June afternoon. "You're going to be pretty tired tomorrow for your sermon," I jokingly said to him. He was a pastor and we would be returning to Kitchener late that Saturday night. Sean said, "This is church this week." That was unexpected! I was surprised that a church would choose not to gather on Sunday because they had gone to a Blue Jays game on Saturday!

West Hills Mennonite Fellowship has made some significant shifts over the last two years. "We had lost a number of families and no longer had the same capacity to run programs, or even a Sunday morning service each week," says Sean East, pastor. "It freed us to think outside of the box and we put some intentional thought into how best to implement teachings from ReLearning Community."

Following one of the key concepts of MCEC's ReLearning Community, that as a disciple of Jesus we have a relationship UP with God, IN with fellow believers, and OUT with people who do not know God, West Hills adopted a pattern or rhythm in terms of their weekend gatherings.

One week they have a traditional worship service that looks very similar to worship services in other congregations. This is their UP Sunday. The next week is an IN Sunday and looks quite different. They meet in someone's home and have a more informal time of

worship and faith formation intentionally focused on seeking God together as a community. They share a meal and perhaps part of the afternoon together. The following Sunday they return to a traditional service in another UP Sunday.

The fourth weekend is designated an OUT weekend. "We don't have any kind of formal gathering on an OUT weekend – there is no worship service, no communion service, no gathering in that sense. As a group, we will either plan something or join something that is already happening in the community," says Sean. They have held

gym nights, instituted an annual trip to a Toronto Blue Jays game, gone bowling, and held nature walks or scavenger hunts.

ReLearning Community recognizes that we all have busy lives and encourages people to give something up in order to do something new.

"We have found that by adopting a bi-weekly Sunday morning worship service, it frees time and space to invite people into our lives," says Kelly Freeman, member at West Hills. "This rhythm is a deviation from traditional church and while there is excitement, there has also been some lamenting over the loss of the traditional church format."

People engaged this new rhythm at varying levels of participation. It was hard for some to have one Sunday a month where they were not gathering as a faith

*Life OUT and about their neighbourhood with West Hills Mennonite Fellowship, Baden, ON.*



community. At the same time, people also saw the excitement and the impact that this new rhythm had on the lives of people.

“God has really shown us that the church is the people and not the walls in which you meet,” says Kelly. “I’ve been in the church all of my life and I think this has been one of the most impactful frameworks for being church together.”

Sean concludes, “Our success is measured in whether we are being obedient to what God is calling us to do. That is all that we can do.”

West Hills Mennonite Fellowship, located in Baden, ON, has been a part of MCEC’s ReLearning Community for the last four years. ReLearning Community is a two-year spiritual journey that encourages us to question our assumptions about discipleship, and challenges us to reconsider how we engage each other, our friends and family, our community, and our world with the gospel story.

*Lisa Williams is Director of Communications for MCEC.*

## Bridging the gap: A pastor's imaginative journey to the truth

By Kevin Barkowsky

Twelve years ago, Living Hope Christian Fellowship in Surrey experienced a massive influx of Karen (pronounced Kah-REN) refugees from Myanmar, who fled their country because their government sought to wipe them out through ethnic cleansing.

Having your congregation triple its size in one week, with two-thirds of that congregation not speaking English, definitely ignited the imagination of Living Hope Fellowship. "Many people got involved helping these people adjust," says Living Hope Associate Pastor Derek Dovale, "including Gertrud Vogt who drove people around and helped them settle."

Gertrud has learned to appreciate the different cultural practices of the Karen. She told the story of when a group of Karen people were spotted sitting on the floor eating lunch by Canadian Immigration Settlement Services, they were told, "Don't sit on the floor. In Canada, we use tables." When the immigration staff later returned to the room, the Karen were all sitting on top of a table!

"Karen families generally eat together," Gertrud said, "in meals taken on the floor, with rice in a common container, and separate dishes are laid out for people to help themselves by hand. They tell me it still tastes better that way!"

When it came to choosing English names for their children, Living Hope Pastor Bless Len said the Karen community got imaginative.

"Karen people never had an understanding that children are given their dad's last name until (they came to) Canada," he said. "Karen names are hard to pronounce, so when we translate our names directly to English, we get imaginative combinations. My girlfriend's name is Bweay Wah, which literally means 'frosty white, bright.' Her name ended up being Snow White." Bless Len said one creative Karen couple, after watching Titanic, chose the English name Kate Winslet for their daughter.



*Pastor Bless Len with the Karen young adult/youth group.*

Prior to my arrival in Canada," says Pastor Bless Len, "I went to a mission high school in Thailand. We learned about the Bible and Jesus. I experienced a revival there, something I had never experienced before. There are so many dark spirits that we don't see in the Western world. People were being healed and set free by the power of the Holy Spirit. One of the missionaries at the mission high school was Karen, and I said to myself, 'I want to be a pastor like him one day.'"

"Then we came to Canada, and during my high school years, I forgot my calling. Then something miraculous happened. I had a physical reaction to shrimp and beef, and I couldn't go to school for a month and half. After that, I kept missing school. Then one day, by the power of the Holy Spirit, I recommitted myself to the Lord, and at the same time, He healed me from my allergy. After high school, I went straight to Columbia Bible College. I got more involved in my third-year internship at Living Hope. A key part of my work then and now is being a bridge between the Karen people, especially the elders, and the Canadian people. The Karen kids now mostly speak English, but we just had three young women arrive from Myanmar; so there is a lot of bridging that I do."

"One of my favourite scriptures," said Bless Len, "is 1 Peter 2:9. 'But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His

wonderful light.' I grew up in a tradition that mixed faith, culture, and superstition all together. Karen people in Myanmar sacrificed animals for our own mistakes—this is common in parts of the world. But as the verse says, 'out of darkness God has chosen us.' Even through the suffering of the Karen people, even through ethnic cleansing, we didn't know twelve years later we would be in Canada: young adults, going to college, university, and serving the church. We didn't know that God had a purpose for the Karen people. Ultimately, it's not about traditions and superstition, it is about the truth found in Jesus Christ."

*Kevin Barkowsky is Church Engagement Minister and Communications Coordinator for MCBC.*

## Gift of community by listening to neighbours and newcomers

By Darryl Neustaedter Barg

Jubilee Mennonite Church, in northeastern Winnipeg, asked itself an interesting question about 10 years ago: “If our church was plucked out of this neighbourhood by aliens, would anybody notice?” It was also around this time that local kids started hanging around the building when it was empty and getting into trouble. The journey into listening for God’s nudging, being creative, and connecting with the neighbourhood became formalized on May 22, 2019, as a ribbon was cut at the opening of the Community Roots Resource Centre, a partnership between Jubilee, the city of Winnipeg, the Regional Health Authority, Manitoba Housing, and other churches in North Kildonan. From neighbourhood gatherings to kids’ club to the community garden and kitchen to coffee time, the goal is to be a healthy place to connect, get help, and get whole. Community Minister Anna Marie Geddert absolutely beams as she talks about the kinds of connections being made. (Visit [www.communityrootswpg.ca](http://www.communityrootswpg.ca) to learn more.)

The seven people from Mennonite Church Manitoba who attended the Mennonite Church Canada Mission Consultation in Calgary, March 29 to 31, all agree that mission has to be more than programming—it’s about individuals who are in relationship. We must get to know and love our neighbour. Only in mutual relationship can conversations naturally move to matters of the heart and Spirit.

These attendees also agreed that one of the main gifts MCM congregations have is community. How can that gift be embraced and shared? How can our community be a gift to those around us and propel us into relationship?

Many MCM congregations have invested themselves in welcoming newcomers into their midst. While the majority are Syrian, nationality has not been a factor as communities support and walk alongside God’s beloved who have suffered and look for a new home in Canada. One congregation has supported more than 35 people in the last five years. Another, in small-town Manitoba, scrambled to house a family of 12 and has walked with them since they arrived.

MCM also has a long history connecting with Indigenous peoples in Manitoba for whom community and “all my



Anna Marie Geddert (left), community minister at Jubilee Mennonite Church, speaks at the opening of the Community Roots Resource Centre, launched out of the small church building.

relations” is a core gift and a central teaching. These relationships continue to evolve as we come to new understandings about the ways we can live as reconciling people, without the colonial worldview we inherited and perpetuated, in many cases.

Grace Mennonite Church in Steinbach, MB, has formed a relationship with the whole community of Pauingassi First Nation. GMC members fly out to the remote northern community and help host kid and family camps in partnership with local people and with the encouragement of community leaders.

Ray Hamm from Altona Mennonite Church has been involved in planning story nights between AMC church members, Altona town locals, and the nearby Roseau River First Nation. The goal is to listen to one another and appreciate the stories that shape us in the places we live.

May we trust in Jesus to enlarge our faith through relationship, may God’s grace enable us to live in just and right relationships, and may the Spirit empower us to engage in transforming relationships with others in our community and across the globe.

*Darryl Neustaedter Barg is Associate Director of Communications for MCM.*

## Testing and trusting the call to leadership: a life-giving challenge

By Ryan Siemens



*Emily Summach speaking at the MC Sask 2019 Women's Retreat at Shekinah Retreat Centre.*

While there are many activities within the lives of our MC Sask congregations that encourage and ignite the imagination of our church, one area that is particularly life giving and exciting is in our pastoral leadership. Currently, MC Sask has 33 active pastors/leaders in our congregations. Of these 33, 17 are men, 16 are women, and just over 30 percent are under the age of 40. This mix of women and men, seasoned and new, offers hope for the

future. We are excited by the openness and willingness of our congregations to trust this next generation of leadership. We are delighted by the openness and willingness of these young adults who are testing their call to pastoral ministry in a congregational setting. And we are grateful for our seasoned pastors who give their time and energy to mentor and walk alongside these folks as they move into ministry.

Mennonite Church Saskatchewan is a province-wide community of faith comprised of 27 congregations who have covenanted together to be Christ Centered and Sent as we live and grow as communities of grace, joy, and peace. Of our 27 congregations, 15 are located within an hour's drive of Saskatoon, four are scattered across the north of the province, three in the west, four across the south and one in the "middle." We have roughly 2,700 members/attendees, 40 percent of our congregations are 50 worshippers or less, and two-thirds of our congregations are rural. Together as MC Sask we own three camping ministries (Camp Elim, Shekinah Retreat Centre, and Youth Farm Bible Camp) and the Rosthern Mennonite Nursing Home Complex. We strongly support the work of our schools (Rosthern Junior College, Canadian Mennonite University, and Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary), have a long history of



being involved with Restorative Justice Ministries (CoSA South Saskatchewan, Micah Mission, and Parkland Restorative Justice), engage youth through SMYO and Mega Menno, and on June 7 to 8, many of our people were busy volunteering, visiting, eating, and supporting the work of MCC at the MCC Sask Relief Sale in Saskatoon.



*Hymn singing at the 2019 MC Sask Annual Delegate Sessions.*

When we are not eating and volunteering together, we like to get together to sing. This past March at the MC Sask Annual Delegate Sessions held at

Zoar Mennonite Church in Waldheim, nearly everyone left their dinner seats and were in the pews for 30 minutes of pre-session singing. This has become a joyful highlight of our time together at our annual sessions. These times spent singing and worshipping together enlivens our spirits and deepens our walk with God and each other. This singing and worshipping together continued on the weekend of June 14 to 16 as MC Sask partnered with Voices Together members Sarah Johnson and Anneli Loepp Thiessen, along with Marilyn Houser Hamm, to lead four regional worship services across the province on the theme Deepening Our Walk with Each Other through Song and Worship and a workshop on the new hymnal. In October, we will continue to engage the theme Deepening Our Walk with Each Other with Tom Yoder Neufeld at our Continuing Education Days (October 17 to 18) and our Equipping Day (October 19 at RJC).

As we continue to walk through uncertain times in our world and our congregations, it is in openness and willingness to test new calls and step out in faith that we will discover God's voice once again and have our imaginations for the church ignited!

*Ryan Siemens is the Executive Minister for MC Sask.*

Welcome to Gathering 2019, our new Mennonite Church Canada biannual nationwide event! The act of gathering has become second nature to me in my work as MC Canada Communications Officer. Every other week I meet virtually with MC Canada's five Regional Church communicators for one hour to discuss nationwide messages, agenda, and what we can do collectively to promote the work and ministry happening across our nationwide church at all levels.

It is a rewarding challenge to figure out how to do "communications" for a newly restructured organization, like MC Canada. No longer a centralized national Church out of Winnipeg, Manitoba, we are now a covenanted body of five Regional Churches, with three programs that congregations are encouraged to embrace as their own ministries: International Witness, Indigenous-Settler Relations, and CommonWord Bookstore and Resource Centre. Witness Support Teams, regional events like the Walk for Common Ground (May 31 to June 14), and resource sharing on CommonWord's website are examples of some of the initiatives that I collaborate on with the other communicators to meaningfully and effectively promote.

An exciting development unfolding this year (2019-2020) is the development of a new MC Canada website that will integrate a nationwide site with our regional and local church websites (see the infosheet below). We're calling it a website hub. Working with Barefoot Creative out of Breslau, Ontario, the communicators and Executive Staff Group met in Winnipeg, June 10-12, to take the first steps in making this website system a reality. What excites me the most about this project is that congregations who join the hub will have easy access to content that is user-friendly, will remain fresh and updated, reflects their church, their ministry, and community, and allows all of us to be more connected to one another. (If your church would like to be part of the piloting phase, contact your Regional Church office.)

Barefoot Creative also facilitated the MC Canada communications survey sent to our churches last spring

and summer. Recommendations coming out of that survey (which received around 600 responses—a great engagement, thank you!) have encouraged us to be intentional about articulating MC Canada's purpose, globally, nationally, and regionally; to share information more effectively; and to build stronger connections with folks in the pews through a more diverse communication platform. These are our goals as we head into this next year.

Witness Support Teams, our new relational funding model for International Witness workers, is another project that our Regional communicators are working together to promote, in collaboration with International Witness Director Jason Martin. A WST manual and summary are already available on MC Canada's website, and we will soon release a communications package for congregations. Please check out resources at the International Witness display table as well.

New ways of communicating and new relationships are making themselves known to me and the Regional communicators as we journey through this transition. For example, the WSTs will allow local congregations to more intentionally support Witness workers and connect with our international-ministry partners. It may still stretch the imagination to consider MC Canada as no longer separate from five area churches, but in fact, the *expression* of them. But I see this new way of being together already breaking through. I see it in the way Indigenous-Settler Relations Director Steve Heinrichs collaborated with MCA Communicator June Miller to promote the Walk for Common Ground. I see it in the way Lisa Williams, MCEC Director of Communications, took over WST promotional materials in May so I could focus on Gathering prep. I see it in the way Gathering 2019 event planner Heidi Epp worked collaboratively with many different folks to make this event happen. I see it in the way Henry Paetkau, our



Our Communicators (L to R) (MC Sask), Lisa Williams (M



*R): Back row: June Miller (MCA), Katie Doke Sawatzky (MC Can), Marianne Siemens (MCEC); Front row: Darryl Neustaedter Barg (MCM), Kevin Barkowsky (MCBC)*

interim executive minister, has patiently reminded us communicators over and over that we are all MC Canada now, and with that comes a great opportunity to grow and enrich our nationwide community of faith.

I am thankful for what I have learned and whom I have met so far in this role. Let's keep talking. Thank you for coming to the Gathering 2019 delegate session and I hope you have a wonderful weekend.

God bless,  
Katie Doke Sawatzky  
MC Canada Communications Officer

## Welcome to the MC Canada C

**A digital platform to connect our nationwide community of faith to support congregational mission and ministry.**

Join 10-12 congregations/camps across Canada to pilot this amazing project. Contact your Regional Office to participate.

### CONNECT WITH

- MC Canada congregations across Canada
- International Witness Workers
- Your Regional or Nationwide Church

Receive their story feeds directly on your site!  
Share your stories across Canada!



### Website

**Your congregational private website supported by a larger hub.**

- User-friendly
- Daily updates and changes are easy to do with little technical knowledge
- Drop-and-drag features easily change your site
- Photo galleries, video and audio blogs, news pages, social media integration, sermon uploads
- Regional Workshop to develop your site - you bring the content and photos on flash drive and leave with a website!
- Mobile friendly
- Autonomous site protected by firewalls and encryption
- Training and ongoing support and maintenance provided
- Build your bulletins easily with newsfeeds directly from MC Canada and your Regional Church



### Online Registration

**Simple online registration interface for events and more.**

- Easily register students for Vacation Bible School
- Sign up for a Bible study program
- Organize meal care for those who are sick
- Streamline your Gifts Discernment process
- User-friendly system to quickly build sign-up forms for retreats, camping and other congregational activities
- No more need for third-party software

congregation • regio

# Congregational Website Hub!

## Pricing Structure

### Proposed Congregational Pricing

- Subsidies may be available for initial setup and short-term license assistance
- Initial Set up and training: \$300.00 (see inside)
- Monthly Licensing Fee: \$40 (see details below)

### Licensing Fee Includes

- Hosting

- Technical Support (no technical expertise required of congregation)
- Security Certificates
- Annual Review Meeting
- Software Updates
- Website Health Check

### Timelines

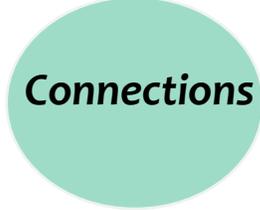
- Pilot Fall 2019
- Potential launch in 2020



## Online Giving

### Safe and secure donations and receipting made easy on your site!

- People can give their offering directly through your safe and secure online portal
- Having a fundraiser – people can now give directly on your website
- Generates tax receipts
- Intuitive user design
- Accepts all major credit cards (credit card information is secure and not contained in the database)
- Congregations will be equipped with a database that will track member donation activity – protocols for data to protect the privacy of members



## Connections

### Resources and partners are only a click away.

- Worship and Christian Education resources available on the site from CommonWord
- Resources and forms for congregational leaders, pastors and members
- Connect with your congregation's International Witness worker
- Connect with partners, schools and camps

**Contact your Regional Church Office to participate.**

*The church was changing. It was a period of flux, with the old trying to maintain the status quo and the new looking for change to meet the needs of the time...To speak to the young people, to speak prophetically to the issues of the day, was urgent.*

—founder Ted Friesen, reflecting on the start of *The Canadian Mennonite* in 1953

*We look forward to meeting you  
at Gathering 2019!*



**Tobi Thiessen**  
Publisher

**Ginny  
Hostetler**  
Executive Editor

**Aaron Epp**  
Online Media  
Manager

**Today, our community's needs continue to change. We still need to connect with multiple generations and to speak prophetically.** In addition to the 10,500 households that subscribe to the biweekly magazine today, we have seen a 50 percent increase in the electronic readership of the magazine, and an 87 percent increase in traffic on our website, over the past two years. Just as Mennonites gather together on a Sunday morning to worship, our community also gathers online and through print to share, discuss, debate, and to build connections.

*Canadian Mennonite* educates, inspires, informs and fosters dialogue for the Mennonite Church Canada community from B. C. to the Atlantic coast. The five regional correspondents play a vital role in telling stories about congregations, camps, schools and other local ministries. Through profiles of individuals on our pages and website, readers meet people living out their faith in other parts of the country. Mennonite pastors and leaders share insights through features and columns. Engaged readers express their views through letters and web comments. Stories from organizations like Mennonite World Conference, Mennonite Central Committee and Mennonite Disaster Service connect readers to the larger Anabaptist world. We are deeply grateful for the Every Home Plan, which allows anyone who attends a Mennonite Church Canada congregation to subscribe.

Mennonite Church Canada congregations and partner ministries are welcome to promote their events in the *Canadian Mennonite* **Calendar**, which appears in the print magazine and on our website. To submit an event, go to [www.canadianmennonite.org](http://www.canadianmennonite.org) and click on Events. As well, *Canadian Mennonite* welcomes notices from church administrators about births, adoptions, baptisms, marriages and deaths, for publishing in the **Milestones** section. Our sense of being a nationwide community grows when we share with one another the important events that take place in our congregations.

We often hear that people discuss *Canadian Mennonite* articles in their church Adult Education classes. As well, readers tell us that *Canadian Mennonite* helps them feel connected to the church across the country. We pray that will continue for many years. Thanks for your support!

### **Ways to connect**

- **Subscribe** to the print or digital edition, or both. If you attend an MC Canada congregation, subscription fees are paid for collectively through the church. Contact your church office for details.
- **Sign up** for "CM Now"— a free, biweekly email with links to recent stories.
- **Write** letters or web comments in response to articles.
- **Follow** CM on Facebook and Twitter.

### **Financial overview**

**Annual budget:** \$750,000

**Revenue:** Subscriptions (church and individual) generate 1/3 of revenue. The remainder comes from advertising, donations, and a federal grant that supports Canadian content in magazines.

**Expenses:** Content creation (writing, editing, layout) accounts for 46% of costs. Printing and postage account for 31%. Administration, including website management, accounts for 23% of expenses.



**MennoMedia**

An agency of Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada

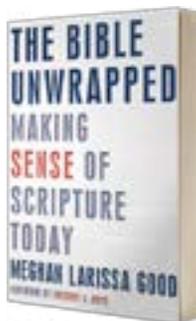
*MennoMedia seeks to engage and shape church and society with resources for living Christian faith from an Anabaptist perspective.*



**WHO WE ARE**

At MennoMedia we publish highly readable, thoughtful curricula and books that call readers to follow Jesus in word and deed. We publish resources about Christian discipleship, spirituality, reconciliation, justice, and theology from an Anabaptist perspective. Our MennoMedia curricula, periodicals, and hymnals reach congregations that share these same affinities, cultivating passion for faith formation and an active life of discipleship rooted in trusting God and following Jesus. Our Herald Press books support the spiritual life of Christians and inform thoughtful faith and action.

**#COMMONREAD PARTNERSHIP**



MennoMedia and CommonWord are partnering to encourage all Mennonites to read *The Bible Unwrapped: Making Sense of Scripture Today*, by Meghan Larissa Good.

Many people have questions about Scripture they are too afraid to ask. Drawing from the best of contemporary biblical scholarship and the ancient well of Christian tradition, scholar and

preacher Meghan Larissa Good provides answers to those questions. More than that, she demonstrates why the Bible matters and how it can be understood by people today.

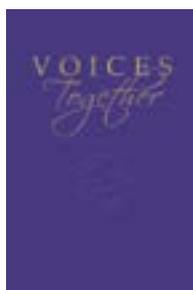
*The Bible Unwrapped* invites readers to faithful reading, communal discernment, and deep and transformative wonder about Scripture.

#CommonRead will take place in Mennonite churches between July 2019 and May 2020. Free resources for congregational study, including a nine-week study guide and blog posts by the author, readers, and pastors, are available at [MennoMedia.org/CommonRead/](http://MennoMedia.org/CommonRead/).

*Purchase a copy of The Bible Unwrapped at the CommonWord booth!*

**VOICES TOGETHER**

*Voices Together* is a new worship and song collection for the Mennonite church to deepen our lives of faith. This robust collection will be available in Fall 2020. Representing a variety of musical styles and patterns of worship, *Voices Together* contains many new songs, alongside old favorites, as well as comprehensive indexes by topic, tune, Scripture, first



line, and more. *Voices Together* will be available in the following editions (prices listed in USD):

- Pew edition (\$23.99)
- Large print edition (\$43.99)
- Accompaniment edition (\$89.99)
- Worship leader edition (\$19.99)
- Projection edition (\$499.99)
- App edition

*More information and pricing is available at [VoicesTogetherHymnal.org](http://VoicesTogetherHymnal.org). Stop by the MennoMedia booth to discuss your congregation's order!*

**SHINE: LIVING IN GOD'S LIGHT**

Jesus calls us to be the light of the world, and to let our light shine before others (Matthew 5:14-16). *Shine: Living in God's Light* is a dynamic children's Sunday school curriculum that invites us to share the light of Christ with children.



Starting in Fall 2020, Shine relaunches with an expanded product line. Shine will continue to produce quarterly Sunday school curriculum, but with an all-new scope and sequence, age-appropriate session plans, and even more engaging products.

In addition, Shine will now produce:

- Vacation Bible school curriculum, debuting in Summer 2020 with the theme "Great big beautiful world." With Shine VBS, children will discover God's love for all of creation demonstrated throughout the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation. We look forward to developing new VBS themes each year that inspire children to explore the Bible in fresh ways.
- A flexible, digital curriculum called *Current* to be produced each summer. Each 13-session unit includes Sunday school materials for ages preschool through adult, worship resources, and plans for an intergenerational event—allowing a fresh, integrated approach to faith formation for all ages. While *Current* will release a new unit each summer, the units will also be available for the duration of Shine's three-year curriculum.



*Find out more about the new Shine curriculum at [ShineCurriculum.com](http://ShineCurriculum.com).*

**Fire by Night**

Finding God in the Pages of the Old Testament  
by Melissa Florer-Bixler

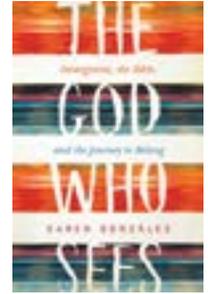
What do we do with the Old Testament? How do we read words written in a world so different from ours, stories so ruthless and so filled with grace? *In Fire by Night*, Melissa Florer-Bixler invites readers to marvel at the Old Testament. The Hebrew Scripture introduces us to a God who is unwieldy and uncontrollable, common and extraordinary, and who brings both life and death.



**The God Who Sees**

Immigrants, the Bible, and the Journey to Belong  
by Karen González

Author Karen González weaves the sweeping epic of immigrants and refugees in Scripture into her family's story of fleeing instability in Guatemala. As witnesses to God's power, Abraham, Hagar, Joseph, and Ruth become grafted onto God's family tree. González empowers readers to welcome immigrants and speak out about an outdated immigration system.



**Addiction Nation**

What the Opioid Crisis Reveals about Us  
by Timothy McMahan King

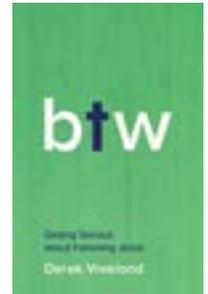
When a near-fatal illness led to a narcotics prescription, Timothy McMahan King ended up as millions of others have: addicted. King eventually learned to manage pain without opioids—but not before asking questions about the spiritual and moral nature of addiction. *Addiction Nation* investigates the ways that addiction robs us of freedom and holds us back from being fully human.



**By the Way**

Getting Serious about Following Jesus  
by Derek Vreeland

What if asking Jesus into our hearts is not the heart of the gospel? What if salvation looks different than we thought? In *By the Way*, pastor Derek Vreeland reframes what it means to follow Jesus. Reclaiming discipleship as the heart of the Christian faith means seeing anew the gospel, the cross, the resurrection, transformation, and the community of faith.



**MENNOMEDIA INCOME & EXPENSES**

	FY19 to date				FY18
	July–March budget, including hymnal project	July–March actuals, including hymnal project	Hymnal project actuals	July–March actuals, without hymnal project	FY18 Actuals July–March
<b>TOTAL GROSS SALES</b>	1,806,905	1,709,926	-	1,709,926	1,751,184
<b>COGS &amp; ROYALTIES</b>	483,803	414,122	-	414,122	488,855
<b>GROSS MARGIN</b>	<b>1,323,102</b>	<b>1,295,804</b>	-	<b>1,295,804</b>	<b>1,262,329</b>
<b>TOTAL OTHER INCOME</b>	<b>342,008</b>	<b>631,636</b>	<b>397,774</b>	<b>233,862</b>	<b>312,061</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME LESS COGS</b>	<b>1,665,110</b>	<b>1,927,440</b>	<b>397,774</b>	<b>1,529,666</b>	<b>1,574,390</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
Wages & Benefits	621,255	631,258	76,245	555,013	
Fixed Expenses	89,526	94,685	1,966	92,719	
Variable Expenses	929,957	870,423	95,840	774,583	
Other Expenses	11,250	8,180	-	8,180	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,651,988</b>	<b>1,604,546</b>	<b>174,051</b>	<b>1,430,495</b>	<b>1,694,113</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>13,122</b>	<b>322,894</b>	<b>223,723</b>	<b>99,171</b>	<b>(119,723)</b>

Mennonite Heritage Archives report to Mennonite Church Canada 2019.

How much are good memories worth? We spend a lot of money and effort creating great memories with our loved ones. Special trips, memory books, and mementos help us remember good times. The Mennonite Church also understood the value of remembering and created an archival program in 1933, which continues today.

In June 2017, Mennonite Church Canada's (MC Canada) archival program underwent significant shifts. Eliminating the full-time director position reduced staffing to 1.5 full-time equivalent. The program name changed from Mennonite Heritage Centre (MHC) to Mennonite Heritage Archives (MHA), while the MHC Gallery became a program of Canadian Mennonite University (CMU) and no longer has direct ties with MHA. To support the new Archival programming, a three-way partnership was established between Mennonite Church Canada, CMU, and the Centre for Transnational Mennonites studies based at the University of Winnipeg. This shared approach has created a more stable funding structure for the program. Together with direct financial donations to MHA, we now have four income streams.

In June 2017, archivist, Conrad Stoesz moved from half to full time and Connie Wiebe remained half time. However, Connie has been on an extended medical leave and we are grateful to have Selenna Wolfe join our team working for the archives and gallery programs. We have also been developing our pool of volunteers who do a variety of tasks including scanning, uploading, organizing, translating, and describing. One of our volunteers is Euncho Ko, who is spearheading our Korean Mennonite Oral History project, which includes interviewing people from Korea who have worshiped in MC Canada congregations, primarily in Manitoba.

MHA continues to collect, preserve, and make accessible MC Canada's congregational and community records. While MHA directly works with MC Canada through our participation in CommonWord's online store, another joint project was the scanning of day-school materials in the summer of 2018. In the 1950s, two Indigenous communities invited Mennonite Pioneer Mission (which became a Conference project) to establish day schools in their communities. Some of the records of these schools are now in the archives. MHA scanned and along with MC Canada donated these images to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation archives. MHA was successful in obtaining a Young Canada Works federal grant to hire Jordon Zimmerly for this project. Our 2019 summer project, which also received the Young Canada Works federal grant, is to process selected materials created/compiled by Mennonite women.

MHA continues to play a leading role in the Mennonite Archival Information Database (MAID, [archives.mhsc.ca](http://archives.mhsc.ca)) that nine archival partners use in Canada and the U.S. The *Canadian Mennonite* column "a moment from yesterday" features images from MAID. We continue to produce our magazine, the *Mennonite Historian* together with the Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies and send it to MC Canada congregations free of charge. We are also active on Facebook and Instagram.

Looking ahead, we are close to launching a new website at [marchives.ca](http://marchives.ca), we continue to develop volunteer skills, and take in new acquisitions. Our building is now 40 years old and needs upgrades to the structure and mechanical systems. We also need to make more preparations for the inclusion of digital-born records in our holdings. The physical and digital upgrades needed require significant resources. However, together, I am confident we can be successful in maintaining our community's memories.

Conrad Stoesz, Archivist

### *Worth Remembering*

The Mennonite Heritage Archives is a project of: Canadian Mennonite University, Centre for Transnational Mennonite Studies, and Mennonite Church Canada.

It is now three years since delegates to the July 2016 MC Canada Assembly passed a resolution on Palestine and Israel. The resolution, a response to the call of Palestinian Christians, encourages prayer, education, and advocacy in the quest for peace, justice, and human rights in their “holy” land. The resolution’s follow-up has broadened from a national working group in the first year to a network of regional working groups and individuals.

**Working Group (2016-2017).** Shortly after Assembly, the co-movers and MC Canada staff prepared and posted a Frequently Asked Questions document to address and anticipate concerns. In fall of 2016, MC Canada appointed a national working group composed of volunteer regional representatives to help implement the resolution. Through conference calls and email, this group:

- Promoted “Pathways to Peace,” a four-session curriculum written by co-mover Palmer Becker, along with the FAQ document and a list of Palestine-Israel resources available at CommonWord
- Established collaborative relationships with MCC (in its Cry for Home campaign), Independent Jewish Voices, United Network for a Just Peace in Palestine and Israel, local Palestinian associations, and others devoted to justice and peace in Palestine and Israel
- Hosted gatherings of people who have been on Mennonite-related learning tours
- Ascertained that MC Canada’s pension fund was not supporting Israeli military enterprises and registered our opposition to investments that enable Israeli settlements in the West Bank
- Spoke in churches and at Regional Church assemblies, encouraging prayer and advocacy.

MC Canada staff supported our work through photocopying, monthly conference-call bookings, and the airing of two “Church Matters” podcast interviews, one with co-mover Byron Rempel-Burkholder and the other with Palestinian-Anabaptist human rights lawyer Jonathan Kuttab.

**Regional Efforts and National Network (2017 to the present).** Since early 2018, the national working group (now MC Canada PIN) has been a forum for quarterly reporting and idea sharing, while follow-up work happens regionally. MCEC and MCM each have working groups that meet monthly or bi-monthly. MCBC’s Service, Peace, and Justice Committee hosts the work of the resolution. An inter-Mennonite working group in Edmonton has also joined the network. Accomplishments of these groups and individuals include:



Credit: Melita Rempel-Burkholder.

- Promotion of speaking events and tours featuring Palestinian peace-and-justice advocates: Jonathan Kuttab, Rev. Alex Awad, Tarek Al-Zoughbi, Sahar Vardi, and Rev. Naim Ateek
- The creation of prayer requests and announcements for church bulletins
- With local partner organizations, hosting and/or participating in forums, symposia, and demonstrations
- Holding meetings with parliamentary representatives, including an MCEC working-group delegation to Ottawa in spring 2018
- Promotion of Mennonite Central Committee’s Cry for Home campaign and the Palestinian “land exercise”
- Promotion of letter-writing and petition campaigns urging the Canadian government to uphold international law and its own policies with regard to Palestine and Israel
- Conducting workshops and Sunday school classes on the resolution, Christian Zionism, and the realities of the occupation.

As the prospects for a just peace in the Holy Land remain elusive as ever, the calls for support from Palestinian people and churches persist. We invite you to consider ways to support the working groups—or start your own.

For more information, or to subscribe to a periodic email update, please contact Byron Rempel-Burkholder at [brempelburkholder@gmail.com](mailto:brempelburkholder@gmail.com) or (204) 831-5207.

Byron Rempel-Burkholder  
Chair



## Overview

Caring for God's creation has been a part of the Mennonite Church's official agenda since 1977, when it passed a resolution on Christian Stewardship of Energy Resources. In 2005, MC Canada and MC USA appointed representatives to the Mennonite Creation Care Network.

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

MCCN is a network for Mennonite people actively engaged in the care and restoration of God's creation. Its goals are to encourage the Church to:

- Claim our biblical and theological foundation regarding the care of God's Creation
- Discover the ties that link all created beings to each other and to God
- Confess the harm we have caused the natural world and our neighbors
- Act faithfully to restore the earth.

This bi-national council of volunteers meets once per year in person and once or twice via phone conference. Staff from the Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center of Goshen College and from Everence provide continuity between meetings and manage a website for MCCN. With its stewardship emphasis, Everence is a natural partner and a major financial supporter. In addition to funding a half time staff person, Merry Lea roots MCCN in an inspiring land base and connects it to academic faculty and other resources. Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Central Committee Canada help defray partial

travel costs of the two Canadian members.

## Council in 2018

Members Serving a Full Year

- Sponsor Representatives: Luke Gascho (Goshen, IN)
- Staff: Jennifer Halteman Schrock (Goshen, IN)
- Canada: Joanne Moyer (Edmonton, AB)
- USA: Dave Hockman-Wert (Corvallis, OR), Lawrence Jennings, (New York, NY) Lillie Koerner Eisenbeis (Freeman, SD)

Council Transitions

- Jim Smith (Goshen, IN) transitioned out of the role of sponsor representative and was replaced by Marlene Kroeker on September 1, 2018.
- Marlisa Yoder-Bontrager (Lancaster, PA) completed her second term in May 2018.
- Haroldo Nunes (Wooster, OH) resigned before the fall virtual meeting.
- The U.S. and Canada vacancies were not filled until early 2019.

## New in 2018

**Shared Congregational Practices:** In 2018, MCCN began calling its congregations to shared practices as a way to promote unity and networking. The first shared practice was a river clean-up during the summer of 2018. Six congregations informed us of their plans or results.

**Mennonite Church Canada Restructuring:** MCCN leadership has been working with Mennonite Church Canada over the last year to figure out how MCCN will fit into the new national and regional structure. Mennonite Church Canada has affirmed its commitment to supporting MCCN's work, and the conversation regarding how we can use this process to strengthen MCCN's work in Canada is ongoing.

## **Collaboration with the Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions (CSCS):**

Goshen College is a core partner in CSCS, a non-profit begun at EMU in 2016. Consequently, MCCN was involved in CSCS projects:

- *Pastoral retreats on climate change:* Jennifer Schrock and Luke Gascho worked closely with Doug Kaufman, a local pastor whom CSCS hired to design the retreats. Jennifer met weekly with Doug, reviewed curriculum, assisted with publicity and attended two retreats, leading small portions of them. Luke provided additional oversight.
- *Faith Outreach Intern:* Goshen College received funding for a summer intern from CSCS. Katie Isaac, a junior from Fresno Pacific University, Fresno, Calif., worked with Doug Kaufman and Jennifer Schrock for three months, dividing her time between CSCS and MCCN. Katie's MCCN responsibilities included overseeing Facebook pages, reaching out to congregations by phone and email and writing stories on members of the network.
- Luke Gascho helped plan a sociological research project funded by CSCS that involves faculty from Goshen College and Associate Mennonite Biblical Seminary. The researchers will prepare case studies on six congregations during the 2019-2020 school year. Focus questions are still being refined but involve creation care themes and climate change.
- Luke Gascho served on the Oversight Board for the Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions, representing MCCN in this venue.
- Lawrence Jennings served on the Board of Reference for the Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions.

## **Council Member Outreach: Speaking and Publications**

Joanne Moyer continues to research faith-based environmental engagement in Canada.

Jennifer Schrock's writing and speaking included:

- An article for The Mennonite entitled, "What to Say

on the Eve of an Election," November 2018, which received 2500 views.

- Several articles promoting or reporting on the CSCS pastoral climate change retreats.
- Along with a Merry Lea colleague, Jennifer served as a speaker for Rockway Mennonite Collegiate's spiritual life week on the theme, "Down to Earth." The assignment also included speaking to a group of local pastors.
- Attendance at and small leadership roles in two pastoral retreats on climate change led by CSCS partner, Doug Kaufman. They took place at Camp Friedenswald, Mich., and Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp, New Hamburg, Ont.
- Speaking in Christian Education classes at Southside Fellowship, Elkhart, Ind., and College Mennonite Church, Goshen, Ind.
- Preaching at Emmaus Road Mennonite Church, Berne, Ind., April 1.

Joanne Moyer  
MCCN Member (Canada)

### Thank you, MC Canada!

Gifts from members, businesses, congregations, regional churches, and foundations of MC Canada to the AMBS Annual Fund from July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018, totaled **\$290,376.78** (Cdn; exchange rate as of June 30, 2018). Canadian donors can contribute directly to AMBS in Canadian dollars through our website. AMBS is recognized on Schedule VIII by Canada Revenue Agency; gifts are tax deductible. We value your support!

**AMBS**, a seminary of Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church USA, has a long history of serving Canadian Mennonites and educating leaders for the church and other organizations.

Our programs integrate academics, spiritual formation and practice, equipping students to read the Bible with an Anabaptist lens, apply critical thinking skills, lead compassionately and live faithfully — wherever God may call them.

### Study at a distance

- **Master of Divinity Connect** (80 credit hours; online and hybrid courses)
- **Master of Arts: Theology and Global Anabaptism** (46 credit hours; fully online)
- **Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies** (27 credit hours; fully online)

### Study on campus

- **Master of Divinity Campus** (80 credit hours)
  - **Master of Arts: Theology and Peace Studies** (60 credit hours)
  - **Master of Arts in Christian Formation** (60 credit hours)
  - **Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies** (27 credit hours)
- [ambs.ca/academics](http://ambs.ca/academics)

### Benefits for Canadians

- A collaborative arrangement between AMBS and **Conrad Grebel University College** allows Canadian students to complete a Master of Theological Studies at Grebel/University of Waterloo and then apply eligible course credits toward a Master of Divinity at AMBS.

- Current students in a graduate program at **Canadian Mennonite University** or **Grebel** receive a **50-percent tuition discount** for all online classes. Students not enrolled in a graduate program receive a 50-percent tuition discount for their first course. (Check out our upcoming offerings: [ambs.ca/onecourse](http://ambs.ca/onecourse))

- AMBS offers generous **need-based financial aid** and various merit-based and ministry **scholarships**, as well as **grants** that match contributions toward a student's tuition from congregations and other religious organizations. Student loans administered by provincial governments are also available.

- The **Mennonite Church Eastern Canada (MCEC) scholarship** is available for Canadians who currently serve, or have a desire to serve, Mennonite Church Canada. Students from MCEC congregations are given preference.

- Canadian students **pay tuition at par** and can exchange up to \$1,200 CAD at par with U.S. dollars each semester to use for living expenses.

[ambs.ca/admissions/aid-for-canadians](http://ambs.ca/admissions/aid-for-canadians)

### Lifelong learning

Several Church Leadership Center nondegree offerings are available at a distance, such as our six-week online **Anabaptist Short Courses** and **Journey: A Missional Leadership Development Program**. Our annual **Pastors and Leaders** event (March 2–5, 2020) provides opportunities for learning, reflection and fellowship; access recordings at [soundcloud.com/followambs](https://soundcloud.com/followambs). [ambs.ca/lifelong-learning](http://ambs.ca/lifelong-learning)

### !Explore: A Theological Program for High School Youth

Students (grades 10–12) can explore ministry, develop their leadership gifts and listen for God's call through a 100-hour Congregational Experience and a 16-day Group Experience in this summer program. Encourage someone you know to apply for 2020! [ambs.ca/explore](http://ambs.ca/explore)

### Exciting new development!

AMBS and Meserete Kristos College have begun a partnership to offer AMBS's new fully online MA: Theology and Global Anabaptism to graduate students based in Ethiopia and recommended by MKC leaders, beginning this fall. We welcome your support of this initiative!



*At the end of June, we're saying farewell to **Ken Hawkley** (at right), who is retiring after having served faithfully since 2008 as Associate Director of Advancement, and welcoming **Bryan Moyer Suderman** (at left) of Kitchener, Ontario, as Advancement Associate for Canada (in addition to his role as Teaching Associate for AMBS's Church Leadership Center).*

### MC Canada connections

- In 2018–19, **six Canadian students** were part of AMBS's 98-member graduate student body, which also included 71 U.S. students and 21 international students. Two Canadian students graduated in May 2019: **Margaret De Jong** (MCEC) and **Jeremiah Buhler** (MCBC).
- **Rebecca Riek** and **Rebecca Yoder Neufeld** (both of MCEC) were one of 17 participant/mentor pairs this year in the nondegree **Journey** program.
- Members of the AMBS Board of Directors include **Bruce Baergen** (MCA) (chair), **David Brubacher** (MCEC), **Gerda Krause** (MCBC), **Terry Stefaniuk** (MC Sask) and **Mark Tiessen-Dyck** (MCM).
- AMBS's teaching faculty includes **Andy Brubacher Kaethler** (MCEC) and **Allan Rudy-Froese** (MC Sask).
- Canadian volunteers in the last year have included **Ed and Gay Kauffman** (MCA) (volunteer coordinators), **Ed and Sharon Heide** (MCEC), **Alvin and Ruth Martin** (MCEC) and **Bev Sawatzky** (MCM).
- Canadian Mennonite University and AMBS collaborate in publishing **Vision: A Journal for Church and Theology** twice each year. See [mennovision.org](http://mennovision.org).

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary  
Rooted in the Word, Growing in Christ  
3003 Benham Ave., Elkhart, IN 46517 USA  
574.295.3726 | [www.ambs.ca](http://www.ambs.ca) | 2019  
[www.facebook.com/followAMBS](https://www.facebook.com/followAMBS)  
[twitter.com/ambs\\_seminary](https://twitter.com/ambs_seminary)



CMU's mission is entrusted through interdependent partnerships with Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Brethren peoples, extended through congregations of a wide ecumenical range. Together the church and CMU enliven Anabaptist commitments of faith and life.

**2018-2019 Enrolment**

**Shaftesbury Campus:**

**651** Full-time equivalent students

**818** Students

**693** Undergraduate

**84** Graduate

**41** Outatown

**75%** Manitoba

**25%** Other provinces and international

**39%** Mennonite (MC, MB, EMC...)

**44%** Ecumenically Diverse (Baptist and Pentecostal to Catholic and Orthodox)

**17%** Disclose no church connection

Includes **93** International students from **28** countries

**Menno Simons College:**

(CMU programming at U Winnipeg)

**288** Full-time equivalent students

**874** Students

**A Faith-Nurturing University Community**

**Outatown** 20 years of helping students learn to Know God, Know themselves and Know the world

**Chapels** 3 times weekly, focused on Seek First the Kingdom of God

**Biblical and Theological Studies** (BTS) form part of the learning of all students; 18 credit hour minimum of BTS in all undergraduate degrees

**Graduate School of Theology and Ministry (GSTM)**

- Anabaptist-Ecumenical Seminary learning in a Canadian context
- Includes livestreamed and intensive (one week) course delivery

**NEW: Masters of Divinity (MDiv)**

with commitments to:

- Learning and Formation
- Calling and Vocation
- Reflection and Praxis
- Discernment for Specific Ministry

**Academics and Vocation**

CMU bridges student passions, convictions, faith, and vocational paths with the needs and opportunities of church and society. Academic studies link Biblical and Theological Studies with 19 different BA majors, all while nurturing an imagination for the church. Academics and community life inspire and equip students for lives of service, leadership, and reconciliation as they enter careers in ministry, medicine, farming, law, business, education, social services, ...and much more.

**Redekop School of Business**

In spring 2019, CMU acknowledged the vision and generosity of the Redekop family in founding the RSB at CMU. Twenty-one members of the family travelled to CMU for the celebration. CMU is grateful for the opportunity to nurture future generations of business leaders who bring together sound business practice, faith, and generosity.



**Practica**

Every CMU degree includes a Practicum component (work and service-integrated learning) regardless of major. The Practicum is a critical part of academic learning, career and vocational discernment. In 2018-19, 130 students completed practicum assignments across Canada and globally in congregations, businesses, hospitals, prisons, senior's homes, schools, camps, not for profit agencies, and more...



**Bachelor of Science**

Along with BA degrees in Arts and Science and Environmental Studies, CMU now offers 3- and 4-year Bachelor of Science degrees in Biology, Mathematics, and General Science. Alongside depth in science, the CMU BSc enables engagement across biblical and theological studies, humanities, and social sciences.

**CMU Centre for Faith and Life (cmu.ca/cfl)**

The **CMU Centre for Faith and Life** (CFL) connects individuals, congregations, and ecumenically diverse constituencies with the university's commitment to the life of the church.

A few highlights below:

**Face2Face** opens community conversations 'at the intersection of faith and life'. Face2Face themes in 2018-19 included:

Whose Neighbour Am I? Treaty One and Mennonite Privilegium

Whose Neighbour Am I? Newcomers in Canada

Let's Talk About Death—It won't kill you!

**Portable CMU:** In 2018-19 CMU Faculty offered 23 Portables in congregations from BC to Ontario, with commitment to the witness and mission of leaders and lay people.

**CMU PAX Award:** In spring 2019, CMU honoured writer Rudy Wiebe with the CMU PAX Award for a lifetime of reflection and writing on matters of faith and life that require our urgent and patient attention.

**Bill C-262:** In March 2019 CMU partnered with MC Canada and other community partners to host an event in support of Bill C-262, a Bill to ensure that Canada's laws are in harmony with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Nearly 700 people gathered to voice their interest and support.

**Upcoming**

**Annual Conference of the Peace and Justice Studies Association** (NA) hosted by CMU, on the theme 'Local Alignments, Global Upheavals', October 4-6, 2019.

**ReNew: Resourcing Pastors for Ministry** (February 11 and 12, 2020) on the theme Transforming Congregational Faith Formation with keynote speaker Dr. Andy Root, Professor and Carrie Olson Baalson Chair of Youth and Family Ministry; Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota).

**Livestreaming:** Many CMU events are accessible wherever you live! Athletics games, public lectures, Face2Face conversations, and various lectures and courses are regularly livestreamed.

# Columbia Bible College Highlights: 2016 - 2019

## "Greater Things"



Looking back over the past few years, there is much for which Columbia Bible College can give thanks: over 400 students each year who want to grow, learn and serve; faculty and staff who are passionately committed to our mission; and a supportive constituency of churches, alumni, parents and individuals.

But we can't dwell in the past. Committed to God's direction for Columbia's future, we are strengthening our discipleship emphasis, creating excellent academic programs that emphasize theology that is practical and culturally-engaged, and developing our campus in order to enable mission fulfillment. By God's grace and with his provision, we believe now is the time to position Columbia's culture, programs, and facilities for long-term Kingdom impact.

Bryan Born, *President*

## Partnering with the Church



It's been our privilege to host a number of events focused on equipping churches and church leaders for ministry in the 21st century. In May 2018, we held **#ChurchToo**, a weekend conference addressing the

tragic reality of sexual misconduct among clergy.

For the first time, we offered "Conversational Punjabi 1," a continuing education evening course to help people engage with their Indo-Canadian neighbours. Enthusiasm for the course surpassed expectations, and we will gladly consider offering more courses along these lines in the future.

January 31 of 2019 saw Columbia partnering with Apologetics Canada to host "How to Keep Young Adults Engaged in the Local Church." Rick Hiemstra of the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada presented compelling new research into the faith of young Canadian adults, with a lively panel discussion following.



## Best Christian Workplace

Columbia was recognized as a 'Best Christian Workplace' for 2017 & 2019, based on our 'Best Christian Workplaces' staff engagement survey results. We're excited to see that our efforts to create a supportive and inspiring workplace culture are bearing fruit.

## "Practical Theology"

As of July 2018, Columbia awards degrees known as "Bachelor of Arts in Practical Theology (Major)" for all four-year programs with the exception of the BA in Biblical Studies. Prompting this decision was a request from BC's Ministry of Advanced Education, who asked Columbia to clearly align the name of our degrees with their faith-centered content.

## Quest: Great to Greater

Starting in Fall 2019, Columbia's longstanding Quest one-year discipleship program is reducing required courses from 10 to 8. This change gives students more flexibility and freedom, allowing them to focus on relational aspects of Quest such as mentoring, or add courses of interest. Another key change to Quest is a new emphasis on developing practical skills that are essential during the transition to adulthood: self-management, decision-making, and more.

## Program Launches



### DIPLOMA IN SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

A two-year program focused on developing faith, a Christ-centered approach to business, and core skills needed to succeed in the marketplace: accounting, economics, marketing, entrepreneurial operations, and more. **Launched: Fall 2017.**



### EMERGENCY RESCUE TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATE

A one-year career-focused program that aims to develop a Christ-centered character and worldview along with the hard and soft skills needed to help people in crisis. **Launched: Fall 2017.**



### APPLIED LEADERSHIP - DIPLOMA & BAPT

This program equips students with leadership skills for ministry and the marketplace. Students may enter in their first year, or after completing Columbia One, Quest, or the new ERT program. **Launched: Fall 2017 (Diploma); Fall 2018 (BA in Practical Theology (Applied Leadership))**



### HEALTH CARE ASSISTANT CERTIFICATE

This eight-month program will qualify graduates to serve as care aides within health care settings across BC. The program will align with BC's approved health care curriculum, integrating a Christian perspective and including a 'Foundations of Christian Vocation' class. **Pending approval; scheduled for Fall 2019 launch.**



Greetings to Mennonite Church Canada 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.”

Our college, located on the campus of the University of Waterloo, greatly values its participation in the life of the Mennonite church locally, nationally, and globally. During this Gathering, many of our faculty are overseas attending the Global Mennonite Peacebuilding Conference and Festival in the Netherlands – an event first launched at Grebel in 2016.

We continue to build on our connections with the Mennonite Church and church-related organizations in Canada and around the world. In March 2018, we finalized a “sequential degree agreement” to encourage the pursuit of a Master of Divinity with Anabaptist Mennonite Theological Seminary (AMBS). This agreement enables students who have completed a Grebel Master of Theological Studies (MTS) degree to obtain an AMBS MDiv degree in as little as one year of additional study.



Students from a wide variety of backgrounds are attracted to our MTS program. Colin Friesen (pictured above) from Abbotsford, British Columbia, notes that “the MTS program with the thesis option allows me to hone my skills and to do research that will prepare me for further doctoral studies.”

Supporting the work of PhD students in theology is

the focus of the Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre (TMTC), located at the Toronto School of Theology. This program is administered and supported by Grebel with the oversight of a bi-national advisory board.

Grebel is also home to the Music and the Peace and Conflict Studies (PACS) departments at the University of Waterloo. In Music, we offer a flexible major and minor program that includes options for Church Worship and Music, Peace and Music, and Global Music. PACS offers popular undergraduate major and minor programs, as well as a Master of Peace and Conflict Studies degree, with participants from around the world.

The College also teaches undergraduate courses in Religious Studies, History, and Sociology, and offers a minor in Mennonite Studies.

Grebel’s main building was constructed in 1963, and the kitchen and dining room at the heart of our facility are undergoing an expansion and renovation. Our “Fill the Table” fundraising campaign has now reached 89% of our \$4,000,000 goal. This project, to be completed by December 2020, will expand our dining room capacity to 300.

Our undergraduate residence is home to 172 students; just over one third of them are Mennonite. Grebel’s residence is open to students studying in all faculties at the University of Waterloo – we have engineers, computer scientists, mathematicians, social workers, nanobiologists, and the list goes on. The opportunity for our students to study at a large public university while living in a closely-knit, Mennonite-college environment is one of Grebel’s most unique features.

I wish everyone at Gathering 2019 an enjoyable and meaningful church gathering.

With gratitude,  
Marcus Shantz  
President, Conrad Grebel University College at the  
University of Waterloo  
[uwaterloo.ca/grebel](http://uwaterloo.ca/grebel)



## 2018 OVERVIEW

People who live generously do so because they have generous hearts. Everyone has different reasons for giving, but when you get to know generous people, you discover the common thread that binds their respective stories together is a deep compassion for people, causes, and communities.

Long before people open their wallets and share of their resources, they have decided that giving for the benefit of others and investing in them is not only worthwhile but creates a world where everyone wins.

**Our vision is bold!** We believe in a world where everyone lives generously. Not some people. Not most people. Everyone! While that is more than we can do on our own, we are committed to making charitable giving as easy as possible for people in Canada.

Abundance Canada has the pleasure of walking alongside the generosity of our clients who know the feeling that comes with living generously, and more importantly, have seen the impact of their gift and the difference it makes in people's lives and communities across this country.

We continue to be humbled by their generosity. Once again, our clients have exceeded expectations and set new records for charitable disbursements in 2018. We are thankful that they have chosen us to be a part of their generosity.

## HIGHLIGHTS

**\$24.1 million**

distributed to Canadian charities

**1,277**

recipient charities in Canada

**\$27 million**

total received donations

Unaudited numbers

## OUR SERVICE INCLUDES

- ✓ Confidential gift planning consultation that is at no cost and with no obligation
- ✓ Personalized and strategic gift planning solutions during one's lifetime and through their estate
- ✓ A flexible gifting account with few restrictions for all your charitable giving
- ✓ All charitable giving conveniently managed from one place
- ✓ Flexibility to choose at anytime when, where and how much to give to charity
- ✓ We will manage and facilitate simple to complex donation options

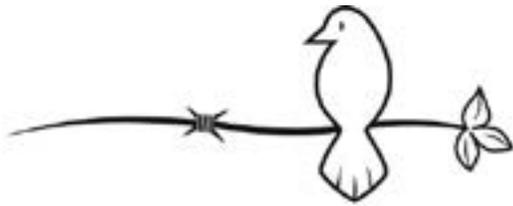
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christian peacemaker teams

building partnerships to transform  
violence and oppression

## CPT Canada Report to MC Canada – Update since June 2016

### CPT International

- **Palestine:** Israel has denied an increased number of CPTers. Meanwhile, many other international organizations in Hebron have been expelled or left due to volatility. CPT vows to maintain its presence in Hebron. As such we have adjusted our traditional model of accompaniment to ensure we can maintain our presence.
- **Iraqi Kurdistan:** CPT continues to witness and document as Turkey and Iran attack Kurdish farmers through cross-border bombings. Due to the danger of this accompaniment work, CPT is one of the only international organizations documenting these bombardments. As such, CPT has been invited to share their reports at EU briefings.
- **Colombia:** While a peace agreement was signed in 2016, human rights defenders continue to be targeted and killed by paramilitaries. Since the peace agreement has been signed, over 500 human rights defenders have been killed. CPT continues to accompany human rights defenders and community leaders, and document the violence against them.
- **Indigenous Peoples Solidarity:** In March 2019, the full time program of Indigenous Peoples Solidarity (IPS) in Winnipeg closed. While there has been sadness and grief around the closure, delegations continue. In addition, a CPT Ontario subcommittee has formed to continue the work of IPS.
- **Lesvos, Greece (CPT Europe Regional Group):** Since 2016, CPT has been providing full time accompaniment to migrants as they defend their rights and undergo legal processes to be granted asylum.

### CPT Canada

- In October 2016, Rachele Friesen became the CPT Canada Coordinator. Rachele is a member of MC Canada and spent 5 years living and working in Palestine.
- CPT Canada has been providing trainings for the community and constituency. Contact [Canada@cpt.org](mailto:Canada@cpt.org) to organize a training in your community! Training topics include:
  - Bystander Intervention Training
  - How to Hold Loves Ones Accountable When they Say Something Racist
  - Undoing Oppressions and Becoming an Ally
  - De-escalation Training For Demonstrations
  - The Stories We Tell: Undoing Oppressions in Advocacy
- CPT Canada continues to provide presentations on peacemaking. Topics include:
  - What is CPT and How You Can Be a Peacemaker
  - Peacemaking in Palestine
  - From Turtle Island to Palestine: Understanding Settler Colonialism
- CPT Canada has become a prominent organization in Toronto to support folks at rallies and demonstrations. This includes assisting in outreach, providing training, and being marshals. At a recent Independent Jewish Voices protest, one participant said, “We feel so much safer because CPT is here!”

christian peacemaker teams

103 Bellevue Ave. Toronto, ON, M5T 2N8, Canada • Tel: 647 339 0991 • [canada@cpt.org](mailto:canada@cpt.org)

## MCC 2019 Report

Over the past year, we've held tightly to Paul's words in Thessalonians 5:11, as change – and even disagreement – have swirled among and around us. We are grateful for the commitment and encouragement of our own denominations, including Mennonite Church Canada.

In March 2019, MCC Canada marked the 40th anniversary of our historic agreement with the Canadian government for the private sponsorship of refugees. Since 1979, MCC has helped resettle more than 12,500 newcomers to Canada, working with thousands of church and community groups along the way.

More than ever, the need to share God's love, compassion and justice with our neighbours – in Canada and throughout the world – is critical. Here are some ways we fulfilled that mission over the past twelve months:

**Relief:** In March, Cyclone Idai left more than 800 dead and displaced hundreds of thousands. MCC and our partners, including the Brethren in Christ church, were able to provide emergency assistance to hundreds of families in Mozambique and Malawi. We are also partnering with the Quito (Ecuador) Mennonite Church to meet the urgent needs of refugees from Colombia and Venezuela by supplying items such as food, gas and stoves.

**Development:** We reached zero! That's zero cases of cholera in two remote Haitian communities where MCC intervened following Hurricane Matthew. Cholera cases had spiked and residents told MCC that stopping the disease was their top priority. That meant improving local sanitation and hygiene. Three years later, the two communities have 781 new latrines – and no reported cases of cholera. Thanks to local partnerships, it's one of our exciting success stories.

**Peace:** At the end of 2018, I travelled to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK or North Korea). I can't overstate the importance of MCC's ongoing peacemaking work there. Current projects in North Korea include distributing relief supplies such as canned meat and clean water to three children's hospitals, working with agricultural science experts on conservation agriculture, and facilitating face-to-face exchanges for dialogue, diplomacy and mutual respect. This is just a small part of MCC's peacebuilding work, which permeates everything we do.

As you gather together with MC Canada brothers and sisters over the next few days, we wish you God's peace and hope. Thank you for partnering with us in being the hands and feet of Jesus. We couldn't do this work without you!



RICK COBER BAUMAN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MCC CANADA  
RICKCOBERBAUMAN@MCCCANADA.CA



Rick Cober Bauman poses with one of the cooks at Sariwon Hospital, a pediatric hospital in North Korea. In 2018, MCC shipped nearly 49,000 kg of canned meat to North Korea. (MCC photo)



In Tanzania, three women with albinism (from left) Sr. Martha Mganga and Happiness Msuya (both from Tanzania) and Barbara Merrill (from the U.S.) share with the community about albinism and how it affects people in every country of the world. In addition to this peacebuilding work, MCC partners with the Tanzanian Mennonite Church in its goal to prevent cancer in people with albinism. (MCC photo/Tiffanee Wright)

**“Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.”**

— Thessalonians 5:11, NRSV



**MENNONITE CHURCH USA REPORT TO MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA**



*“God has made known to us the mystery of God’s will, according to God’s good pleasure that God set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in God, things in heaven and things on earth. –Ephesians 1:9-10*

Mennonite Church USA has been on an important journey these past two years – **the Journey Forward!** We believe that history has a direction, and it is moving toward the fullness of time when God will gather up all things in heaven and on earth in unity. We will gather in Kansas City for our biennial convention on July 2-6 to check in on our journey and how our Renewed Commitments are shaping our journey. The following are glimpses of the work of MC USA’s Executive Board and staff during the past two years:

The primary Executive Board focus this biennium was carrying out the work created by the 2017 **Future Church Summit** in Orlando. This included:

- August 2017: MC USA staff worked together with the Executive Committee to:
  - 1) Plan a follow-up process to the Future Church Summit (Journey Forward).
  - 2) Nominate individuals for a Writing Team and Reference Council to produce follow-up materials.
- September 2017: The Executive Board approved the **Journey Forward** documents (statement of core values, outcomes and strategies and the process of a congregational study), commending them to the Constituency Leaders Council for feedback.
- January 2018: The Writing Team developed a one-page document entitled **Renewed Commitments for MC USA**. This was broadly circulated through the church for feedback and critique.
- June 2018: After receiving feedback on the *Renewed Commitments* document, the writing team developed and released **Pathways for the Journey Forward**, a Bible study for congregations. This study enabled congregations to study the biblical foundations of the *Renewed Commitments* and reflect on their specific call to embody them in their own context.
- August 2018-May 2019: **Stories were collected** for sharing at MennoCon19.

**In other business:**

The board appointed and installed **Glen Guyton** as the third executive director of MC USA. Several other key MC USA staff were appointed.

The board received the report of the Panel on Sexual Abuse Prevention and a resource for congregations, **Prevention and Response: Sexual Abuse and Non-Credentialed Individuals**.

The board approved a **new strategic plan** prepared by Executive Director Glen Guyton.

The Executive Committee met with leaders of **Lancaster Mennonite Conference**, and leaders committed to pray for each other, share with each other what the Spirit of God is doing among them and endorsed LMC’s desire to remain fellow communicants in the larger Anabaptist body of Mennonite World Conference.

After lengthy negotiations, the board gave its endorsement to the terms and conditions of **releasing The Mennonite, Inc. as an entity of Mennonite Church USA** to explore merging with Mennonite World Review, Inc.

**Linda Dibble**, a chaplain and long-time leader in Pacific Northwest Conference was nominated as MC USA moderator-elect beginning in 2019.

MC USA Women in Leadership filled the Chapel of the Sermon of the Mount at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary with over 200 people from across North America for the **Women Doing Theology Conference, Talkin’ ‘Bout a Revolution: Dialogue, Practice and the Work of Liberation**.

*–submitted by David Boshart, moderator for MC USA*

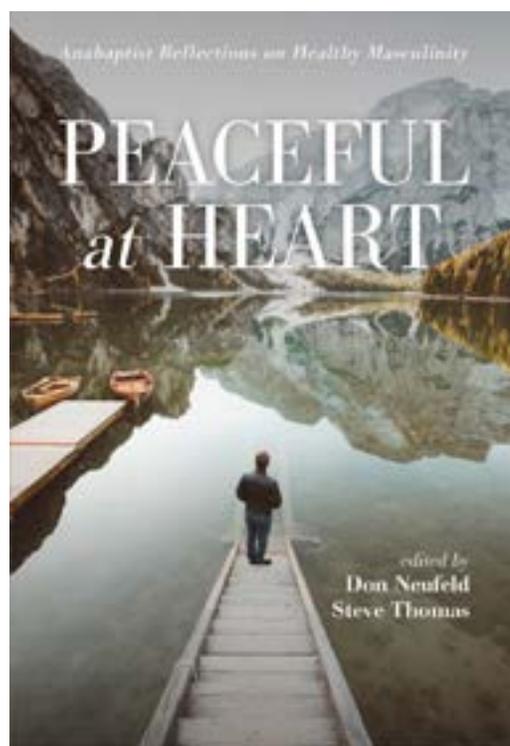
Mennonite Men is a bi-national ministry of Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church USA. Our ministry focuses primarily in two areas: resourcing and supporting the spiritual lives of men, and raising funds to provide grants to young congregations to build or purchase their first worship spaces.



Our JoinHands program provides grants to churches in Canada and the U.S. and has contributed nearly two million dollars to support the ministries of local congregations. Our most recent grant was made to the Eden Life International Church of Kansas City, Missouri, in April of 2019 (picture included). In July of 2018 we provided a grant to the Grace Community Church in Cradock, South Africa, as part of our tithe grant program to support congregations beyond North America. We value your consideration of giving to this important ministry through our website, at <https://www.mennonitemen.org/support>.

Our JoinMen program promotes healthy masculinity, Christian formation, and community for men from an Anabaptist perspective, through promoting men's groups and retreats, and by providing resources. We desire that men grow to be strong, loving, and wise as we follow Jesus in building God's shalom. This year we are pleased to offer our latest and most ambitious resource to date! *Peaceful at Heart: Anabaptist Perspectives on Healthy Masculinity*, co-edited by Don Neufeld, Canadian Coordinator for Mennonite Men, and Steve Thomas, U.S. Coordinator for Mennonite Men and published by the Institute for Mennonite Studies out of AMBS in Elkhart, is now available! Fifteen men, joined by three women, provide a wide perspective to engage dialogue on

healthy masculinity. We are anticipating that individuals and groups will use this resource to inspire conversation amongst men, and with women, towards living more fully as men in relationship with ourselves, with others, with creation, and with our creator God. *Peaceful at Heart* is available through CommonWord.



This spring during our annual board meeting, Don Neufeld of Virgil, Ontario, was appointed as the Canadian Coordinator for Mennonite Men, replacing Hans Peters who held this responsibility since late 2014. We thank Hans for his leadership these last 5 years! We continue to seek interested men across Canada who have an interest in the work of Mennonite Men and who would consider becoming involved in various leadership opportunities across Canada.

Men of MC Canada, we value your input and participation. We would love to hear from you!

Don Neufeld  
Mennonite Men Canadian Coordinator  
(905) 650-1577 (cell), [DonN@MennoniteMen.org](mailto:DonN@MennoniteMen.org)  
[www.mennonitemen.org](http://www.mennonitemen.org)



Kathy Giesbrecht (MB), Elsie Rempel (Sec-Treas), Shirley Redekop (Pres), Kate Janzen (AB), Waltrude Gortzen (BC) Mel Harms (SK), Carmen Brubacher (ON).

Mennonite Women Canada connects and supports Mennonite Church Canada's Regional Church women's organizations and women in local congregations, encouraging them *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.*

In 2017 the MW Canada Executive switched from face-to-face meetings to video meetings to discuss our ongoing ministries and the future direction of MW Canada. We met in Winnipeg in October 2017, as part of the Special Delegate Assembly. We chose to remain under the administrative umbrella of Mennonite Church Canada, for which we are grateful.

Recently it has been increasingly difficult to function as a national organization. Therefore, at this national Gathering, we will present a proposal "that the national organization known as Mennonite Women Canada dissolve and that the five Regional women's groups continue to minister to the women in their regions under the umbrella of their respective Regional Church." We propose to distribute our assets for women's ministry to the Regional Churches. The vote will be Sunday, June 30, at our national Gathering's Women's lunch and meeting.

Our mission statement, "Mennonite Women Canada...a place to belong...a place to connect" has directed our ministry since our last restructuring. Relating with other Mennonite sisters across Canada remains important even as we imagine new ways of doing so.

Projects we have continued to this date:

**Spiritual Growth Assistance Fund** – Every year we offered scholarships to women studying Anabaptist theology at a Masters-degree level. Recipients these last three years were Danielle Fillion Raimbault (Conrad Grebel University College), Hyunhee Kim (Canadian Mennonite University), Marlene Wiebe (Canadian Mennonite University) and Mary Barg (Fresno Pacific University).

**Pennies and Prayer Legacy Fund** – \$5,000 from this endowment fund is used each year to support Mennonite Church Canada Witness workers overseas. In the last years we supported Christina and Darnell Barkman (Philippines), Taryn and Nathan Dirks (Botswana), and Bo Ki Kim and Sook Kyong Park (South Korea).

**International Ministries** – We have continued to support MC Canada's ongoing ministry among the Isaan people in northeast Thailand under the direction of Witness workers Tom and Christine Poovong.

**Annual Bible Study Guide** – We collaborated with Mennonite Women USA and MennoMedia to publish annual Bible Study Guides. These include Faith Travels: Trusting God in Life's Transitions by Marlene Kropf, 2016; Live your Call, by Anna Liechty Sawatsky, 2017; Every Day Worship, by Carol Penner, 2018; and our final edition, Everytime I feel the Spirit, by Shannon Dykus, 2019.

"To Everything A Season"

Shirley Redekop, President  
Elsie Rempel, Secretary/Treasurer



**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

## Report to Mennonite Church Canada – 2019

*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.*

### Giving Thanks:

- In 2017, we began **Renewal 2027** – an annual, 10-year series of events that commemorates the beginnings of the Anabaptist movement (<https://mwc-cmm.org/renewal2027>). We are looking forward to our 4<sup>th</sup> annual celebration that will take place in Abbotsford, BC, March 28, 2020.



- Praise God for the 300 national church leaders from 56 countries that met face-to-face at the triennial Mennonite World Conference meetings of the Executive Committee and General Council; and the MWC Commissions and Networks, April 2018 in Limuru, Kenya.
- To view a highlight video of MWC during 2018 go to: <https://mwc-cmm.org/video/2887>

### Getting Involved: More Than Assemblies

- MWC is our Anabaptist global church with more than 1.4 million believers in 107 national Member Churches, including Mennonite Church Canada. Learn about your global Christ-centred faith community, by requesting the biannual **Courier/Correo/Courier** magazine, monthly online **Info** newsletter, and sign up for our bimonthly **Prayer Network** at [www.mwc-cmm.org/signup](http://www.mwc-cmm.org/signup)
- As churches face persecution, natural disasters, political turmoil and conflict, the presence and identification with the global Anabaptist church is an essential means of support, encouragement and resources. For example, MWC walks with our brothers and sisters in Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Malawi following Cyclone Idai, "one of the deadliest storms on record in the southern hemisphere" (UN); and in Latin America where church communities are reaching out with the hope-filled gospel of Jesus Christ to those who have experienced displacement.
- We are grateful that MC Canada is joining Anabaptist churches around the globe in worship by participating in **Peace Sunday** ([www.mwc-cmm.org/peacesunday](http://www.mwc-cmm.org/peacesunday)) and **World Fellowship Sunday** ([www.mwc-cmm.org/wfs](http://www.mwc-cmm.org/wfs)), and taking up a **One Lunch Offering** to support the networks and resources of our global Anabaptist church family. Thank you for your generous support of the MWC community through MC Canada, from local churches, and individual donors!

### Prayers of Gratitude and Intercession

- We give thanks, and pray for those of Mennonite Church Canada who are serving with MWC: Lisa Carr Pries (Executive Committee), Thomas Yoder Neufeld (Faith Commission, Chair), Wendy Kroeker (Peace Commission), Arli Klassen (Chief Development Officer and Regional Representatives Coordinator), Len Rempel (Chief Financial Officer), Kristina Toews (Chief Communications Officer). We covet your prayers for the MWC Executive Committee, staff, and those serving on the MWC Commissions and Networks.
- Pray for and plan to attend the next global assembly: **Semarang, Indonesia, July 6-11, 2021.**

Submitted by Gerald Hildebrand, MWC North America Representative, [GeraldHildebrand@mwc-cmm.org](mailto:GeraldHildebrand@mwc-cmm.org)

## Secretary role

The main responsibilities of the Secretary role are to produce minutes for the Joint Council and to conduct official correspondence for the Joint Council as directed. The production of minutes is greatly helped by members of the Executive Staff Group (ESG) taking turns to record the working notes. My main task has been to clean up the working notes and format them into minutes, then make amendments to the draft minutes as indicated by Joint Council. Approved minutes of the Joint Council are available on the CommonWord website ([www.commonword.ca](http://www.commonword.ca)) by searching for "Joint Council Minutes." <https://www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/52/19890>

As approval of the minutes for a meeting occurs at the next meeting, the approved minutes are not available until after the next meeting.

If you are interested, the new bylaws of Mennonite Church Canada, passed at Special Assembly in 2017, are available on the CommonWord website, by searching for "bylaws." <https://www.commonword.ca/FileDownload/25666/mennonitechurchcanadabylawamended@assembly.pdf>

## Finance organization and personnel

Staff reductions in 2015 and after the restructuring following the 2017 Special Assembly's adoption of the Future Directions recommendations, plus some voluntary staff departures led to a lean MC Canada finance and administration group with few experienced staff. In the spring of 2016 a part-time contract accountant, Allan Wainwright, was hired. While he provided needed assistance for two years, the loss of institutional memory around the many funds and accounting procedures resulted in a large amount of time required to understand the accounts. After the completion of the audit last spring (June 2018), Allan asked that we find a replacement, as the time commitment was greater than he could afford given his other clients.

At the recommendation of the ESG, and with approval of the Joint Council, for the past six months we have been working towards sharing the finance department roles in MC Canada, MC Eastern Canada, and MC Manitoba. This is still a work in progress. Sean East, Finance Manager for MCEC, has taken on the role of Finance Manager for MC Canada. We are progressing towards using common accounting software and sharing the payroll and bookkeeping roles. I would like to thank Sean for the extra effort he has put in to get through the start-up

of this effort, and also to thank MC Canada Bookkeeper Jessica Schmidt and Payroll and Benefits Accounting Coordinator Laura Zacharias for their work in converting to the new system and work roles.

Part of the work we have undertaken in the past three years has been to reduce the complexity of the accounts and funds in our system, which was built to support a larger and more complex organization than we currently are. This work has recently accelerated under the direction of Sean. The MC Canada accounts contained many other small funds set aside for various purposes. We have been researching the original intended purposes of these funds, and trying so see how the original intentions of these funds can best be honoured within the current Nationwide Church reality.

In July, 2018, we sold the last property that MC Canada owned, in Loon Strait, Manitoba, which had not been used for decades. The modest net proceeds of this sale were put towards the Partnership Circles work of MCM.

In 2017, an agreement was reached with CMU for them to take over the administration of the Mennonite Archive and Gallery located on the CMU campus, together with the balances of donations and funds designated for these activities. MC Canada stills supports the archive work through a budgeted payment to CMU.

## Financial statements

The audited financial statements for the financial year ending January 31, 2019 (FYE 2019), are included following this report. Statements for previous years are available on CommonWord (<https://www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/52/9267>). For the FYE 2019 statements, we have followed the format used in previous statements for continuity and comparison. Our plan for future financial statements is to use the expense categories shown in the budget that we are presenting at this meeting (for FYE 2020).

## Financial policy and Audit Committee work

The Secretary/Treasurer is Chair of the Financial Policy and Audit Committee (FPAC); the duties of this committee are outlined in MC Canada's bylaws. FPAC currently consists of myself as Chair (part of my Secretary/Treasurer role), Tony Schellenberg (Manitoba) and Ed Heide (Ontario). FPAC meets twice yearly in Winnipeg and additionally corresponds by email and teleconference as required.

In addition to routine duties related to meeting with our auditors and reviewing financial statements, FPAC has also been working on updating MC Canada's financial policies to bring them in line with our new structure.

With our new structure, the finances of MC Canada and the Regional Churches are more dependent on each other. ESG and Joint Council agreed to several Financial Principles, with a summary as:

1. All non-relational giving (i.e., not designated to a specified Witness worker or project) received directly by MC Canada be used to offset the contribution of the giver's Region to MC Canada. So, if you are from Alberta and you send a cheque directly to MC Canada, this is considered part of MCA's budgeted contribution to MC Canada.
2. Bequests that go to MC Canada go to MC Canada. Bequests going to a Regional Church go to the Regional Church. For MC Canada, bequests over \$10,000 are put in Bequest Funds, with 10% of the fund balance used in the budget each year.
3. That Joint Council annually attend to the health of internally restricted funds for each Region and MC Canada.
4. That the Regional Churches and MC Canada move toward adopting a uniform protocol for accounting and reporting.

Adhering to these principles requires regular reporting of financial information between MC Canada and the Regional Church. A Financial Principles and Reports group, with participants from the Regional Churches and MC Canada, worked last year (2018) to develop donation and contribution reports that would be shared across the Nationwide Church. This monthly report-format work is complete. Regional Churches are making changes to their budget and financial statement organization and formats so that the finances of the Regional Churches and MC Canada can more easily be compared.

## Support services – including Pension and Benefit Programs

MC Canada administers both a Pension Program and a Benefits Program that our churches and pastors, as employers and employees, can participate in. The large pool of pastors and other employees that we have nationwide allows us to offer these programs at a substantially reduced cost compared to what individual churches could purchase on their own. The Benefits Program is reviewed twice yearly by FPAC. The Pension Plan is also reviewed twice yearly by FPAC and two

additional members (one is an active plan member and one an inactive plan member). While the programs are administered by large insurance and pension companies, MC Canada has one staff member (Laura Zacharias) who helps with enrollment, questions, and billing. If your church is not currently participating in either of these plans and you would like more information on them, please contact Laura at our Winnipeg office.

MC Canada also publishes a Pastor's Salary Scale and Benefits Guideline on an annual basis. This year the guidelines are undergoing a more major review. The update to the Salary Scale and Guidelines is usually available at the end of summer, so that churches can review changes prior to their next calendar-year budget planning.

## Budget proposal

With the new structure the bulk of donations for the nationwide agenda are now made through the Regional Churches. The MC Canada budget is developed by MC Canada staff and the ESG, based on the programs requested by the Regional Churches and the financial contributions that they commit to. As such the budget cannot be reviewed for recommendation by Joint Council until the Regional Churches have approved their budgets (which include a committed contribution to MC Canada). The budget is approved at MC Canada's Annual General Meeting, which takes place at the Delegate Session during Gathering 2019 this year.

When you review the proposed budget included with this report, you will see that the revenues and expenses have been grouped differently than in prior years. The new grouping reflects the new structure and way that the nationwide-church work is organized. The major sources of revenue are the Regional Church contributions and the Relational Funding for International Witness.

Budgeted revenues include budgeted contributions from each Regional Church, Relational Witness Funding, and interest income. There is also a category marked "Individual Contributions," which is for individual and corporate donations that we cannot attribute back to a particular Regional Church.

Budgeted expenses are grouped into two major categories: Partner Ministries (amounts sent to other organizations) and Operating Fund (amounts where MC Canada personnel do the work and control the expenditures). I would be happy (perhaps with some staff help) to answer any questions related to the budget.

*(Continued on page 60)*

In addition to the budget MC Canada also has agreements with several organizations whereby MC Canada receives and receipts donations, then forwards these donations to the designated organization or fund. The agreements also require that MC Canada review that the funds are spent as indicated in the agreement. Some of these organizations are Mennonite Women Canada, the Mennonite Heritage Centre Archives, AMBS, and Meserete Kristos College. Since the amount sent depends entirely on the amount of the designated donations, these amounts are not included in the MC Canada budget.

Allan Hiebert  
Secretary/Treasurer – Joint Council

## Bylaw 9: Duties and Powers of Voting Delegates

9.1 The delegates entitled to vote and be present at a Delegate Gathering shall:

- a. have the authority to act on behalf of MC Canada;
- b. discern MC Canada's participation in God's work as reflected in MC Canada's Vision Statement and in its Identity and Purpose Statement;
- c. debate issues facing the church and, from time to time, issue statements, including, but not limited to statements pertaining to faith and life, position statements, and statements to governments;
- d. discuss and approve Policy Statements on such matters as are deemed necessary from time to time by the Joint Council;
- e. review the work and ministry of MC Canada;
- f. approve the budgets of MC Canada;
- g. receive the Joint Council's recommendation on the appointment of an auditor to hold office until
- the close of the next regular Delegate Gathering, and accept or reject such recommendation;
- h. consider and accept or reject the financial statements of MC Canada and the auditor's report;
- i. receive the Joint Council's recommendation and accept, reject or remove Regional Churches as members or as provisional members of MC Canada;
- j. elect MC Canada's Officers and members of the Nominating Committee;
- k. make By-laws of MC Canada, amend By-laws as deemed appropriate and monitor adherence to those By-laws; and
- l. review the work performed by the Joint Council between Delegate Gatherings and ratify the same.

Financial Statements of

**MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA**

Year ended January 31, 2019

DRAFT

# MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Audited Financial Statements  
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## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of Mennonite Church Canada

### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Mennonite Church Canada (the Entity), which comprise:

- the statement of financial position as at January 31, 2019
- the statement of operations for the year then ended
- the statement of changes in fund balances for the year then ended
- the statement of cash flows for the year then ended
- and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies

(Hereinafter referred to as the "financial statements").

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Entity as at January 31, 2019, and its results of operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the "**Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**" section of our auditors' report.

We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.



### ***Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the 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.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.

### ***Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.



- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditors' report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditors' report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Chartered Professional Accountants

Winnipeg, Canada

June \_\_\_\_\_, 2019

**MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA**

## Statement of Financial Position

January 31, 2019, with comparative information for 2018

			2019	2018
	General Fund	Capital Fund	Total	Total
<b>Assets</b>				
Current assets:				
Cash	\$ 708,946	\$ —	\$ 708,946	\$ 712,069
Accounts receivable (note 3)	220,409	—	220,409	219,186
Prepaid expenses	57,075	—	57,075	61,284
	986,430	—	986,430	992,539
Inter-fund balance receivable (payable)	223,543	(223,543)	—	—
Investments (note 4)	2,371,796	—	2,371,796	2,373,690
Investment in joint venture	47,435	—	47,435	34,281
Capital assets (note 5)	—	253,970	253,970	282,234
	\$ 3,629,204	\$ 30,427	\$ 3,659,631	\$ 3,682,744

**Liabilities, Deferred Contributions and Fund Balances**

Current liabilities:				
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 160,672	\$ —	\$ 160,672	\$ 350,746
Other loans payable	13,799	—	13,799	14,786
Deferred contributions (note 6)	1,587,462	—	1,587,462	1,463,026
Total liabilities and deferred contributions	1,761,933	—	1,761,933	1,828,558
Fund balances:				
Invested in capital assets	—	4,968	4,968	33,232
Externally restricted (note 7)	427,766	—	427,766	426,856
Internally restricted (note 8)	1,439,505	25,459	1,464,964	1,394,098
	1,867,271	30,427	1,897,698	1,854,186
	\$ 3,629,204	\$ 30,427	\$ 3,659,631	\$ 3,682,744

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

On behalf of the Board:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director\_\_\_\_\_  
Director

# MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

## Statement of Operations

Year ended January 31, 2019, with comparative information for 2018

	General Fund	Capital Fund	2019 Total	2018 Total
<b>Revenues for MC Canada programs:</b>				
Donations and bequests	\$ 1,776,915	\$ —	\$ 1,776,915	\$ 2,393,607
Investment income	25,765	—	25,765	105,598
Sales, services and fees	244,163	—	244,163	290,934
Grants from partner agencies	3,542	—	3,542	11,397
Amortization of deferred contributions (note 6)	92,292	—	92,292	170,841
	2,142,677	—	2,142,677	2,972,377
<b>Revenues for partner programs:</b>				
Donations and bequests	72,813	—	72,813	252,381
Grants	—	—	—	4,167
Investment income	11,000	—	11,000	6,770
Sales, services and fees	806	—	806	12,947
Amortization of deferred contributions (note 6)	445	—	445	34,764
	85,064	—	85,064	311,029
<b>Revenues for related organizations:</b>				
Donation and bequests	342,354	—	342,354	260,052
Sales, services and fees	6,716	—	6,716	102,481
Grants from partner agencies	—	—	—	11,226
Investment income	1,889	—	1,889	872
Amortization of deferred contributions (note 6)	105,580	—	105,580	148,403
	456,539	—	456,539	523,034
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>2,684,280</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2,684,280</b>	<b>3,806,440</b>
<b>Expenses for MC Canada programs:</b>				
Christian Witness (schedule A)	948,584	—	948,584	1,524,874
Christian Formation (schedule B)	223,561	—	223,561	365,803
Church Engagement (schedule C)	197,284	—	197,284	632,404
Joint Council (schedule D)	661,837	—	661,837	1,092,707
	2,031,266	—	2,031,266	3,615,788
<b>Expenses for Partner Programs (schedule E)</b>				
Contributions to related organizations (schedule F)	123,458	—	123,458	509,136
Amortization of capital assets	—	27,281	27,281	30,848
Loss (gain) on disposal of capital assets	—	(4,267)	(4,267)	13,211
<b>Total expenses and contributions</b>	<b>2,618,664</b>	<b>23,014</b>	<b>2,641,678</b>	<b>4,691,129</b>
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses before the undernoted</b>	<b>65,616</b>	<b>(23,014)</b>	<b>42,602</b>	<b>(884,689)</b>
<b>Mennonite Church Eastern Canada (MCEC)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>126,951</b>
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses</b>	<b>\$ 65,616</b>	<b>\$ (23,014)</b>	<b>\$ 42,602</b>	<b>\$ (757,738)</b>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

# MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

## Statement of Changes in Fund Balances

Year ended January 31, 2019, with comparative information for 2018

	Invested in capital assets	Externally restricted	Internally restricted	Unrestricted	2019 Total	2018 Total
<b>General Fund:</b>						
Balance, beginning of year	\$ -	\$ 426,856	\$ 1,368,639	\$ -	\$ 1,795,495	\$ 2,506,316
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	-	-	-	65,616	65,616	(713,679)
Transfer from internally restricted funds (note 8)	-	-	(49,772)	49,772	-	-
Transfer to internally restricted funds (note 8)	-	-	120,638	(120,638)	-	-
Transfer from Capital Fund	-	-	-	5,250	5,250	-
Endowment contributions	-	910	-	-	910	2,858
<b>Balance, end of year</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 427,766</b>	<b>\$ 1,439,505</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,867,271</b>	<b>\$ 1,795,495</b>
<b>Capital Fund:</b>						
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 33,232	\$ -	\$ 25,459	\$ -	\$ 58,691	\$ 102,750
Deficiency of revenues over expenses	(23,014)	-	-	-	(23,014)	(44,059)
Transfer to General Fund	(5,250)	-	-	-	(5,250)	-
<b>Balance, end of year</b>	<b>\$ 4,968</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 25,459</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 30,427</b>	<b>\$ 58,691</b>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

# MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

## Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended January 31, 2019, with comparative information for 2018

	2019	2018
Cash provided by (used in):		
Operations:		
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	\$ 42,602	\$ (757,738)
Items not involving cash:		
Amortization of capital assets	27,281	30,848
Loss (gain) on disposal of capital assets	(4,267)	13,211
Change in non-cash operating working capital:		
Accounts receivable	(1,223)	16,160
Prepaid expenses	4,209	(13,078)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(190,074)	80,374
Accrued income on investments	—	6,590
Change in deferred contributions relating to General Fund	124,436	(254,769)
	2,964	(878,402)
Financing:		
Endowment contributions received	910	2,858
Decrease in other loans payable	(987)	(1,913)
	(77)	945
Investing:		
Proceeds from disposal of capital assets	5,250	—
Decrease in investments, net	1,894	94,504
Investment in joint venture	(13,154)	3,966
	(6,010)	98,470
Decrease in cash	(3,123)	(778,987)
Cash, beginning of year	712,069	1,491,056
Cash, end of year	\$ 708,946	\$ 712,069

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

# MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended January 31, 2019

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## 1. General:

Mennonite Church Canada (MC Canada) is a Canada-wide Christian denomination within the Anabaptist-Mennonite tradition. Its mission includes the promotion of biblical faithfulness in worship, evangelism, service, peacemaking and stewardship of God's creation.

On October 14, 2017, at a Special Delegate Assembly, MC Canada voted to change its bylaws, to take effect immediately. MC Canada is now a covenanted partnership of provincial/regional Mennonite Church conferences that works 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 partner regional church 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, 2019

---

## 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, 2019

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## 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, 2019, MC Canada made employer contributions for its employees to the plan in the amount of \$39,766 (2018 - \$70,006).

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.

# MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2019

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## 2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

### (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.

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.

# MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2019

### 3. Accounts receivable:

	2019	2018
Donations receivable	\$ 155,724	\$ 105,677
Other	64,685	113,509
	<u>\$ 220,409</u>	<u>\$ 219,186</u>

### 4. Investments:

	2019	2018
Abundance Canada:		
Annuities	\$ 11,981	\$ 12,968
Church Building Fund Trust	443,215	443,244
Endowments, bequests and other	1,838,133	1,805,705
Canada Life Insurance Company	–	109,147
Industrial Alliance Financial Group	76,286	–
Crosstown Civic Credit Union surplus shares	2,181	2,626
	<u>\$ 2,371,796</u>	<u>\$ 2,373,690</u>

The investments held at Abundance Canada (formerly Mennonite Foundation of Canada) may be withdrawn at any time, with due notice. Investment earnings are paid by Abundance Canada based on its pooled rate, less a fixed percentage for administration fees.

The majority of the investments with Canada Life Insurance Company were held in a money market fund and a guaranteed fund.

# MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2019

## 5. Capital assets:

	2019		2018	
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net book value	Net book value
Land	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 983
Buildings:				
Conference administration	829,070	805,473	23,597	37,691
Leasehold improvements	240,000	36,000	204,000	204,000
	1,069,070	841,473	227,597	241,691
Vehicles, equipment and furnishings	660,124	633,751	26,373	39,560
	\$ 1,729,194	\$ 1,475,224	\$ 253,970	\$ 282,234

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 9[a]) and a general security agreement. As at January 31, 2019 and January 31, 2018, no amounts are drawn on the facility.

## 6. Deferred contributions:

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, 2019 and 2018, no such income was earned based on the policy.

# MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2019

## 6. Deferred contributions (continued):

General Fund (continued):

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

	January 31, 2019	Received and not disbursed	Recognized as revenue	January 31, 2018
<b>MC Canada programs:</b>				
Christian Witness:				
Witness Bequest Fund	\$ 802,846	\$ 72,503	\$ 81,149	\$ 811,492
Myanmar	23,817	—	—	23,817
Church Building Fund	442,191	—	—	442,191
	1,268,854	72,503	81,149	1,277,500
Christian Formation:				
Formation Bequest Fund	31,036	—	3,449	34,485
	31,036	—	3,449	34,485
Transition Funding				
	—	—	7,694	7,694
	1,299,890	72,503	92,292	1,319,679
<b>Partner programs and related organizations:</b>				
Partner Projects	29,465	18,330	—	11,135
North American Vietnamese Mennonite	18,330	14,285	—	4,045
IM short-term assignments	17,569	16,642	—	927
MC USA - Join Hands	15,513	—	445	15,958
Meseretes Kristos College	206,695	200,993	105,580	111,282
	287,572	250,250	106,025	143,347
	\$ 1,587,462	\$ 322,753	\$ 198,317	\$ 1,463,026

# MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2019

## 7. External restrictions on General Fund balances:

External restrictions on General Fund balances are as follows:

	2019	2018
Joint Council Endowments:		
Conference administration building	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
MC Canada general endowment	8,445	8,445
	<u>108,445</u>	<u>108,445</u>
Christian Witness 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>
Christian Formation Endowments:		
Company of 1000	273,511	272,601
History archives endowment	25,112	25,112
	<u>298,623</u>	<u>297,713</u>
	<u>\$ 427,766</u>	<u>\$ 426,856</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, 2019

## 8. Internally restricted fund balances:

### (a) General Fund:

	2019	2018
Christian Witness:		
Discretionary witness support	\$ 323,989	\$ -
Witness start-up	-	18,816
Missional resources	-	3,878
International Ministries	-	220,000
Native Ministries	59,353	64,353
Witness medical	-	15,371
Asia Worker Housing	-	65,924
	<u>383,342</u>	<u>388,342</u>
Christian Formation:		
Youth Assembly	18,094	18,094
Resource Creation	4,000	4,000
	<u>22,094</u>	<u>22,094</u>
Operations:		
Major repair reserve	22,442	22,442
Joint council:		
General bequests received to be used for program expenditures over a 10 year period	214,863	151,737
General	198,165	145,462
New projects	100,000	100,000
MCEC first fruits	375,184	375,184
	<u>888,212</u>	<u>772,383</u>
Partner programs:		
Learning Tour	20,005	20,005
MVSA Partnership reserve	-	34,598
Company of 1000	4,886	1,080
Mennonite Women Canada	98,524	107,695
	<u>123,415</u>	<u>163,378</u>
	<u>\$ 1,439,505</u>	<u>\$ 1,368,639</u>

These internally restricted amounts are not available for any other purpose without the approval of the respective Council or General Board. Subsequent to October 14, 2017 (see note 1), approval must be obtained from the Joint Council.

On January 26, 2019, the Joint Council approved a motion to combine the following fund accounts into a new internally restricted fund named Discretionary Witness Support Fund: Witness start-up, Missional resources, International Ministries, Witness medical and Asia Worker Housing.

# MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2019

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

During the year, the Joint Council authorized the following transfers:

- (i) \$49,772 (2018 - \$849,696) from the General Fund's internally restricted funds to the General Fund's unrestricted funds to cover program expenses for the year.
- (ii) \$120,638 (2018 - \$136,017) to the General Fund's internally restricted funds from the General Fund's unrestricted funds to cover future program expenses.
- (iii) \$5,250 (2018 - nil) from the Capital Fund to the General Fund.

### (b) Capital Fund:

	2019	2018
General capital	\$ 25,459	\$ 25,459

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

## 9. Related party transactions:

### (a) Canadian Mennonite University:

The Canadian Mennonite Bible College (CMBC), which was previously owned and operated by MC Canada, entered into a formal arrangement in 1998 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. The members of CMU are CMBC, Concord College and Menno Simons College.

# MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2019

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## 9. Related party transactions (continued):

MC Canada leases its offices (and the Heritage Centre until June 1, 2017) 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. During the year ended January 31, 2018, MC Canada agreed to transfer the assets of the Heritage Centre and the responsibility for the operations of the archives and gallery projects to CMU for nil consideration. The disposition was recorded at book value. Under the agreed terms for the transfer, MC Canada has an ongoing commitment of approximately \$55,000 annually to the archive operating costs, for an initial three-year period. After this period, the funding commitments will be reviewed by the parties to the arrangement. MC Canada paid \$96,603 during the year to the Heritage Centre as operating grants.

MC Canada incurred \$130,000 (2018 - \$185,292) in operational and payroll costs during the year which has been contributed to CommonWord.

A nil balance is due from CommonWord (2018 - \$2,751). MC Canada's share of the joint venture excess of revenue over expenses was \$13,153 (2018 - \$3,965).

### (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 \$163,192 to Menno Media (2018 - \$25,726).

### (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 Industrial Alliance. During fiscal year 2019, MC Canada was paid \$54,926 (2018 - \$78,480) by Industrial Alliance for services provided by MC Canada in relation to administering the plan with nil balance (2018 - \$36,294) in accounts receivable at January 31, 2019.

# MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2019

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## 10. 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 2018.

### (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 2018.

### (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 2018.

### (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).

# MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Expenses for Christian Witness Program

Year ended January 31, 2019, with comparative information for 2018

	2019	2018
International ministries	\$ 708,944	\$ 1,173,763
Indigenous/settler relations	166,097	173,035
Executive office	73,543	167,229
National ministries administration	-	10,847
	<b>\$ 948,584</b>	<b>\$ 1,524,874</b>

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# MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Expenses for Christian Formation Program

Year ended January 31, 2019, with comparative information for 2018

	2019	2018
Resource Centre	\$ 111,424	\$ 102,034
Executive office	96,602	174
Ministerial and congregational leadership	15,535	87,900
Canadian Mennonite University grants	-	175,695
	<b>\$ 223,561</b>	<b>\$ 365,803</b>

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# MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Expenses for Church Engagement Program

Year ended January 31, 2019, with comparative information for 2018

	2019	2018
Canadian Mennonite	\$ 129,628	\$ 118,940
Communications	42,959	320,867
Executive office	24,697	87,181
Development	–	105,416
	<b>\$ 197,284</b>	<b>\$ 632,404</b>

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# MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Expenses for Joint Council

Year ended January 31, 2019, with comparative information for 2018

	2019	2018
Administration	\$ 350,965	\$ 397,967
Finance	156,507	233,722
Operations	138,566	301,723
Mennonite World Conference grants	35,000	28,500
Assembly	10,560	133,765
Foreign exchange gain	(29,761)	(2,970)
	<b>\$ 661,837</b>	<b>\$ 1,092,707</b>

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# MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

## Expenses for Partner Programs

Year ended January 31, 2019, with comparative information for 2018

	2019	2018
Mennonite Voluntary Service Adventure	\$ 34,598	\$ 4,413
Mennonite Women Canada	29,755	12,701
Company of 1000	20,730	40,150
North American Vietnamese Mennonite Fellowship	16,905	52,117
IM short-term assignments	10,870	10,304
Mennonite Heritage Centre Archives	10,600	115,187
Mennonite Heritage Centre Gallery	-	138,472
Myanmar	-	91,881
Partner Projects/New Initiatives	-	24,957
Philippine Partnership	-	12,819
Kherson	-	6,135
	<b>\$ 123,458</b>	<b>\$ 509,136</b>

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# MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

## Contributions to Related Organizations

Year ended January 31, 2019, with comparative information for 2018

	2019	2018
Meseretes Kristos College	\$ 270,512	\$ 299,201
Menno Media	158,044	25,726
Canadian Mennonite University	11,682	98,553
Associated Mennonite Bible Seminary	10,170	56,974
Mennonite Church USA	10,350	2,759
Mennonite Mission Network	3,182	31,433
Mennonite Church Eastern Canada	-	7,500
	<b>\$ 463,940</b>	<b>\$ 522,146</b>

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**MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA  
BUDGET AND ACTUAL FINANCIALS**

	<b>BUDGET FYE 2020 \$</b>	<b>ACTUAL FYE 2019 \$</b>	<b>BUDGET FYE 2019 \$</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Revenue - MCEC Contributions	\$610,000	\$732,148	\$630,000
Revenue - MCM Contributions	\$372,000	\$359,385	\$425,000
Revenue - MCSASK Contributions	\$127,000	\$140,554	\$127,000
Revenue - MCA Contributions	\$87,000	\$103,329	\$96,000
Revenue - MCBC	\$22,500	\$34,059	\$30,500
Revenue - Individual Contributions	\$20,000	\$19,886	\$0
Relational Witness Funding	\$303,000	\$291,280	\$300,924
Revenue - Undesignated Estate Gifts	\$0	\$78,300	\$0
Revenue - Recognized General Bequest	\$21,486	\$0	\$0
Revenue - Interest Income	\$67,427	\$25,765	\$42,228
<b>TOTAL OPERATING FUND REVENUE</b>	<b><u>\$1,630,413</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,784,706</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,651,652</u></b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
<b>Partner Ministries</b>			
Mennonite World Conference	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000
CommonWord	\$130,000	\$116,849	\$130,000
Mennonite Archives & Gallery	\$66,175	\$97,631	\$0
Canadian Council of Churches	\$12,500	\$12,444	\$19,000
Evangelical Fellowship of Canada	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
Canadian Mennonite	\$111,631	\$111,023	\$111,631
<b>Total Partner Ministries</b>	<b><u>\$361,306</u></b>	<b><u>\$378,947</u></b>	<b><u>\$301,631</u></b>
<b>MC Canada Operating Fund</b>			
Executive Office (Schedule 1)	\$222,617	\$342,580	\$346,340
Leadership Formation (Schedule 2)	\$30,960	\$7,936	\$16,411
International Witness (Schedule 3)	\$598,831	\$662,860	\$844,909
Indigenous/Settler Relations (Schedule 4)	\$126,997	\$129,293	\$143,371
Communications (Schedule 5)	\$48,600	\$42,959	\$68,454
Support Services (Schedule 6)	\$174,333	\$66,419	\$133,196
Occupancy (Schedule 7)	\$66,770	\$68,962	\$36,500
<b>Total Operating Fund Expenditures</b>	<b><u>\$1,269,108</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,321,008</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,589,181</u></b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b><u>\$1,630,414</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,699,955</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,890,812</u></b>
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit) from Operations</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$84,751</b>	<b>-\$239,160</b>
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit) from Partner Projects</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>-\$42,149</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Net Operating Fund revenue (expenditures)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$42,602</b>	<b>-\$239,160</b>

	BUDGET FYE 2020 \$	ACTUAL FYE 2019 \$	BUDGET FYE 2019 \$
<b>Executive Office (Schedule 1)</b>			
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	\$0	-\$480	\$0
Revenue - Gathering Registrations	-\$71,250	\$0	\$0
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$111,217	\$186,745	\$215,190
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$29,400	\$69,966	\$50,150
Staff Training and Development	\$3,500	\$221	\$1,000
Joint Council/Executive Staff Group Meeting Costs	\$72,000	\$75,568	\$50,000
Gathering Expenses	\$71,250	\$10,560	\$30,000
Program Expenses	\$6,500	\$0	\$0
	<b>\$222,617</b>	<b>\$342,580</b>	<b>\$346,340</b>
<b>Leadership Formation (Schedule 2)</b>			
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	-\$3,000	-\$4,150	\$0
Transfer In - Formation Bequest Fund	-\$3,104	-\$3,449	-\$3,449
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$19,363	\$0	\$5,000
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0
Staff Professional Development	\$0	\$1,129	\$0
Dues & Subscriptions	\$7,700	\$0	\$8,600
Education & Training	\$10,000	\$14,406	\$6,260
	<b>\$30,960</b>	<b>\$7,936</b>	<b>\$16,411</b>
<b>International Witness (Schedule 3)</b>			
Co-Ministry Fees	-\$21,000	-\$10,097	-\$5,400
Self-Generated Revenue & Cost Recovery	-\$19,853	-\$116,626	-\$37,963
Transfer In - Witness Bequest Fund	-\$80,285	-\$81,149	-\$109,254
Deferred Contributions - Other	-\$34,475	-\$200	-\$1,000
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$76,249	\$71,891	\$154,266
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$7,300	\$20,095	\$19,200
Staff Professional Development	\$500	\$21	\$3,000
Itineration Expenses	\$0	\$24,710	\$12,000
Publicity and Promotions	\$0	-\$82	\$2,000
Membership Fees	\$5,000	\$3,829	\$17,500
Program Costs	\$34,475	\$3,772	\$4,000
<b>Witness Programs</b>			
Benin	\$12,000	\$16,950	\$12,000
Burkina Faso	\$0	\$66,348	\$65,167
Congo	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$19,000
South Africa	\$0	\$61,774	\$94,939
China	\$161,278	\$124,047	\$171,035
Phillipines	\$149,946	\$211,656	\$163,347
South Korea	\$108,161	\$42,867	\$63,560
Thailand	\$104,684	\$105,105	\$102,013
England	\$37,250	\$35,472	\$35,000
Germany	\$11,000	\$34,000	\$34,000
Ukraine	\$2,100	\$2,202	\$2,000
Colombia	\$24,000	\$26,274	\$24,000
Cuba	\$500	\$0	\$500
	<b>\$598,831</b>	<b>\$662,860</b>	<b>\$844,909</b>

	BUDGET FYE 2020 \$	ACTUAL FYE 2019 \$	BUDGET FYE 2019 \$
<b>Indigenous/Settler Relations (Schedule 4)</b>			
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations	\$0	-\$630	-\$6,564
Deferred Contributions	-\$25,000	\$0	-\$15,000
Self-Generated Revenue & Cost Recovery	-\$20,000	-\$38,713	-\$28,000
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$80,347	\$76,049	\$76,235
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$14,000	\$11,711	\$13,000
Staff Professional Development	\$2,500	\$3,099	\$1,800
Indigenous Training & Leadership Development	\$6,000	\$4,995	\$7,800
Publicity & Promotion	\$10,000	\$17,452	\$27,500
Postage & Shipping	\$3,000	\$27,198	\$5,500
Cost of Sales	\$4,500	\$1,481	\$2,500
Program Expenses	\$51,650	\$26,649	\$58,600
	<b>\$126,997</b>	<b>\$129,293</b>	<b>\$143,371</b>
<b>Communications (Schedule 5)</b>			
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	\$0	\$0	\$0
Deferred Contributions	-\$125,000	\$0	\$0
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$35,000	\$41,131	\$61,854
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$2,000	\$0	\$0
Staff Professional Development	\$1,000	\$0	\$0
Program Costs	\$130,100	\$0	\$1,100
Publicity & Promotion	\$5,500	\$1,827	\$5,500
	<b>\$48,600</b>	<b>\$42,959</b>	<b>\$68,454</b>

	BUDGET FYE 2020 \$	ACTUAL FYE 2019 \$	BUDGET FYE 2019 \$
<b>Support Services (Schedule 6)</b>			
Self-Generated Revenue & Cost Recovery	-\$130,000	-\$147,338	-\$121,589
Deferred Revenue	\$0	-\$7,694	\$0
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$213,143	\$149,388	\$189,456
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$500	\$0	\$500
Staff Professional Development	\$200	\$140	\$140
Office and Admin Expenses	\$50,490	\$42,466	\$62,190
Legal & Audit Expenses	\$40,000	\$29,457	\$2,500
Program Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0
	<u><b>\$174,333</b></u>	<u><b>\$66,419</b></u>	<u><b>\$133,196</b></u>

**Occupancy Costs (Schedule 7)**

Rent, Utilities, Common Area Maintenance	\$16,689	\$12,639	\$18,500
Office & Building Maintenance	\$6,000	\$8,946	\$8,000
Insurance	\$16,800	\$24,364	\$10,000
Depreciation	\$27,281	\$27,281	\$0
Loss/(Gain) on Sale of Fixed Asset	\$0	-\$4,267	\$0
	<u><b>\$66,770</b></u>	<u><b>\$68,962</b></u>	<u><b>\$36,500</b></u>