

**Transcript of “Living into what God calls us to be: greetings from Mennonite Church Canada”
video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9PKw2OagTIE&feature=youtu.be>**

Doug Klassen, Executive Minister
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Hi, I’m Doug Klassen. I’m the Executive Minister for Mennonite Church Canada. Mennonite Church Canada, you wonder? Isn’t MC Canada...finished...disbanded... archived...dead even? Well, to borrow a favourite phrase from Paul’s letter to the Romans... “By no means!”

Mennonite Church Canada is alive and well because the Regional Churches that comprise Mennonite Church Canada are alive and well!

Okay, then is MC Canada then just a collection of five regions that have a Gathering every few years? By no means! Mennonite Church Canada is more than that.

Some of you may have been at Gathering 2019 in Abbotsford and saw this first hand. It was a powerful time...the Spirit’s presence was palpable among us. But now we’re all back in our local communities. How do you relate and connect to what the Spirit is doing across our nationwide church?

It all starts with your local congregation. When each of you faithfully offers your gifts, talents, and abilities, the Holy Spirit takes these and multiplies them to bring healing and hope to your communities and all who grace your presence.

When your congregation offers volunteers and finances to your Regional Church, and your Regional church brings its offerings to the nationwide level, the Spirit multiplies. Marvelous things are happening that go beyond the sum of our parts. Ministry initiatives are growing.

For instance, Mennonite Church Canada is a leader in the area of Indigenous-Settler Relations in Canada? Together with ecumenical and grassroots partners, program director Steve Heinrichs and our congregations are helping to shift the conversation on Indigenous rights in Canada and in our churches towards real reconciliation. ISR working groups across our Regions are meeting regularly to nurture this healing work. We have also published several books and resources to help educate congregations and communities across the country. You should check them out at CommonWord.ca

Wait...Did I say CommonWord? The CommonWord Bookstore and Resource Centre is a joint venture that we have with Canadian Mennonite University to provide you with Anabaptist - related resources your homes and congregations.

Thousands of digital resources for worship planning or leadership development are freely accessible online and are available for loan or purchase at great prices.

Visit us in the beautiful Marpeck Commons on the CMU campus. It is really something to witness.

Wait...Did I say *Witness*? Yes, International Witness. For nearly 120 years we have shared the Good News of Jesus Christ in many places around the world. Together with partner organizations we have begun hospitals, schools, seminaries, and churches among many people and many cultures.

Witness work continues today in Thailand, South Korea, China, Philippines, Benin, and Ukraine. Conversations are moving forward for partnerships in Myanmar, Vietnam, Bolivia, Ethiopia and countries in West Africa. It is an exciting time!

What we see time and again is that the more that is offered, the greater the bounty. Today, across our nationwide church and through Mennonite World Conference, we see how the Holy Spirit takes all that is offered in faith and feeds the lives of those who come to sit at Jesus’ feet.



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Mennonite Church Canada looks a little different now, but is just as committed as ever to God's mission in the world.

Through your local congregation, your Regional Church body and through Mennonite Church Canada, we are living into what we are called to be – Agents of God's healing and hope in the world. Mennonite Church Canada is living and growing in faithful service.

God bless you for who you are and all that you offer in faith and love.