



We Declare

Gathering 2022

what we have seen & heard

Report Book

Digital Edition - Interactive



Mennonite Church Canada
Our nationwide community of faith



Welcome to wild rose country!

A word from our hosts

Mennonite Church Alberta is pleased to host the 2022 Gathering of our nationwide church. We are a community of 12 congregations who come together from all corners of the world, reflecting the global face of the Mennonite Church. In Edmonton, Mennonite congregations engage with other denominations and faith traditions to find commonalities that shape their community. They work hand-in-hand on refugee settlement, peace walks, international relief efforts and interfaith dialogue. A warm welcome is extended to all who will join us for the Gathering in Edmonton and online as we worship, make decisions and explore what it means to be a people called to see, to hear and to declare what God is doing in our midst.

Our Gathering comes at a time of anticipation for rediscovery and renewal, following a season of pandemic caution and care. It comes at a time when our world needs to hear the Gospel’s good news: stories of peacebuilding in a time of division, experiences of healing and reconciliation in a time of suffering and visions of hope in a time of climate emergency.

We’ll hear these stories, and more, as we engage with keynote speakers, workshop and tour leaders. We’ll step into transformative experiences in Gathering elements that we cherish and in exciting new initiatives (see right).

We relish the signs of hope that being together brings, even as the pandemic continues. We look forward to a Gathering filled with God’s faithfulness and joy!



Tim Wiebe-Neufeld

Executive Minister,
Mennonite Church
Alberta



Brenda Tiessen-Wiens

Moderator,
Mennonite Church
Alberta

Gathering at a glance:

- Worship, song, prayer and storytelling will centre us as we hear God’s word and affirm the many ways that our faith is lived out each moment of each day.
- For the first time at a nationwide Gathering, participants will be able to join virtually; you can register as an individual or as a congregation to participate in worship, plenary sessions and online workshops.
- Those who travel to Edmonton are encouraged to consider their climate impact by donating to MC Canada’s Creation Care Fund. Building this fund will enable congregations to take action in reducing their environmental footprint.
- The Young Leaders Experience will bring together a cohort of young adults from every region to experience the Gathering and to explore our nationwide community.
- Camp Valaqua on the picturesque Little Red Deer River will host the Amplify! Youth Gathering 2022, where youth will make new friends, play, build the future church and listen for the many ways that God speaks.
- Minds and muscles will be stretched as we disperse throughout Edmonton on Sunday afternoon. Whether you worship with our Oromo- or Nuer-speaking congregations, enjoy the U of A’s award-winning Botanic Garden, walk through the beautiful North Saskatchewan River Valley, or delve into the stories of religious and historic sites, you will taste Edmonton’s rich nature, culture and history.



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Ministries

Mennonite Church Canada
Gathering 2022
Report Book



Calvin Quan

Moderator, Mennonite Church Canada

Moderator's Report

Welcome to Gathering 2022, *We Declare: what we have seen and heard!* What stories need to be told about God's work in our lives, and what stories need to be heard about God's work in the lives of others? We look forward to connecting with you at this year's Gathering to engage in these conversations that help shape our understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus in a changing world.

No one could have imagined the significant ways our lives have changed over the past three years. From lamenting our losses to learning new ways to connect, COVID-19 has changed our lives. The unsettling discovery of hundreds of unmarked graves at former residential schools reminded us of the hard work of reconciliation that lies ahead. The climate emergency, underscored by the alarming severity of wildfires, flooding and droughts, has never been closer to home. The past three years upended norms and our understanding of normal, yet we draw strength from the shared hope we have in Christ, a hope shaped through difficult circumstances yet galvanized to tackle these challenges.

In 2020, together with your support, Mennonite Church Canada responded to the COVID-19 crisis by contributing over \$100,000 to the Mennonite World Conference (MWC) COVID-19 relief fund. While this allowed us to offer support to vulnerable members in our global church family hit hardest by the pandemic, it also deepened our understanding of what it means to be an Anabaptist faith community beyond our borders, even as we navigated COVID-19 uncertainties closer to home.

In 2021, Bill C-15 was adopted into Canadian law to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to ensure our laws align with international human rights standards. Not only does the passing of the Bill recognize the years of hard work in public advocacy led by former Indigenous-Settler Relations program director Steve Heinrichs, it serves as a catalyst for all of us to engage in listening to the stories of our Indigenous neighbours, hopeful as we begin a journey of healing.

In 2022, Joint Council named Climate Action a nationwide priority, identifying six initiatives that reflect our commitment to respond to the climate crisis. By committing

funds to staff and to develop this priority, we hope that through our regional churches, Mennonite Church Canada will lead the way in engaging youth on the climate crisis, in encouraging congregations toward a path of simple living, in exploring divestment/investment options to mitigate climate change and in sharing creation-care resources with congregations and working groups so we can all contribute to reducing our carbon footprint.

I am deeply grateful for the hope and resilience we witnessed in our collective story as a nationwide community of faith these past three years, despite the unexpected, sometimes difficult, changes we faced. I wish to thank the many leaders, staff and volunteers, whose care and dedication to the service of Mennonite Church Canada, locally and globally, are a source of inspiration to all of us. My time with Joint Council, the Interim Council and the General Board, during the past six years would not have been possible without the many skilled leaders I had the privilege to serve alongside, who have been full of wisdom and encouragement and to whom I owe a special debt of gratitude.

Finally, thank you for your prayers and generosity that make the ministry of Mennonite Church Canada possible, that allow us to continue to hear and tell these important stories of God's Spirit at work in and through us.

Calvin Quan's last term as moderator of Mennonite Church Canada ends this summer (July 2022). Quan is a member of Toronto Chinese Mennonite Church.



Doug Klassen

Executive Minister, Mennonite Church Canada

Executive Minister's Report

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of life... (1 John 1:1)

As I left the banquet hall in Abbotsford, B.C., three years ago, basking in the glow of our first nationwide Gathering, who would have thought that we would soon face a global pandemic and that the very hall we met in would be flooded by a series of atmospheric rivers two years later.

Who would have thought that some of our International Witness Workers would be stranded abroad, all of them not able to return home for two years? Who would have thought that we could learn to use technology as fast as we did to carry on Sunday services and to conduct regional church gatherings? Who would have thought we would navigate through pandemic fears and frustrations that would cause divisions in some of our congregations?

Yet, as we look back, we can see the hand of God guiding us, caring for us and encouraging us. I know I have as I have worked with our regional executive ministers and Joint Council on finding our footing as a nationwide community of faith expressed as five regional churches, together.

Looking back

I have been Executive Minister for three years now. I am often asked, "Has the role been what you expected?" I grin and reply honestly, "No, it has not." Some of that has to do with the adaptations we had to make because of the pandemic. More of it has to do with the complexity of how our new organizational structure works and the policy and procedural updates needed to support it. The goals of Mennonite Church Canada's new structure—a covenanted partnership between five regional churches—were agreed to at the Special Assembly in 2017; however, over the past five years, the systems by which the structure was supposed to function have either struggled to develop or conflicted with reality.

To address this, in May of 2021, Mennonite Church Canada's Joint Council enlisted the help of Credence & Co., an industry leader in organizational health, to lead us

through an assessment of our new structure and to help us find ways to align it with the vision we have for the denomination.

As a result, over the past year, executive leadership have rewritten Mennonite Church Canada's Operating Agreement (see page [93](#)), which clarifies that Mennonite Church Canada has its own separate identity apart from the regional churches. The operating agreement also clarifies the roles of the regional church executive ministers as advisory, not staff of Mennonite Church Canada.

"Guiding Understandings for Nationwide Decision-Building and Operations," published in early 2022, (see page [120](#)) has become our new guide for how the regional churches plan ministry efforts together as Mennonite Church Canada. The six initiatives of "[Taking Action on Climate Change.](#)" published in February 2022, are an example of an initiative born from these guiding understandings. Along with our Covenant (see page [91](#)), this document will be foundational for us as we re-examine and re-affirm nationwide priorities.

Looking forward

I am frequently asked the question, "Do you think the church in the West is dying?" I grin and reply honestly, "No, we are just in the middle of a huge paradigm shift." Society today is no less concerned or interested in spirituality, relationships, justice and beauty than it once was. N.T. Wright calls these things "echoes" of God's voice in the world – they are ways in which we know God is living and active in the hearts and minds of human beings. However, the centuries-old way that we have engaged these "echoes" in the Western church is losing relevance.

I have had persons of all ages say to me that they desire a worship experience that focuses on the transcendence of God and feels less like a town hall or community association meeting. Others say that they are looking for a church shaped more like the company that Jesus kept, one that recentres faith instead of tightly held moral values. Finally, Western Christianity's engagement with neoliberalism, capitalism and colonialism has left us in a place where we have disconnected from and dominated "the birds of the air and the lilies of the field" (Matthew 6:26ff). In an age of quantum mechanics, spirituality and science are conversing in ways that make us realize that the desire to reconnect with and care for the land is not just a recovery of biblical mandate, but a recovery of something central to what it means to be created in the image of God and to know our place in this world.



So what does this mean for Mennonite Church Canada? It means sincere attentiveness to where God is leading us in the midst of massive change. It means worship focussed on transcendence. It means life in community that enable us to live lives of simplicity. It means easily adaptable structures and policies that are understood as vehicles for ministry, not the focus of them. It means training and mentoring leaders for the shape of ministry that is to come, not ministry in the past. It means theologians and preachers who share the gospel with us in ways that reveal its beauty and redemptive power, rather than through forms of criticism that diminish it. Our missional efforts will struggle without these intentional changes.

Gathering 2022 in Edmonton is an opportunity for us to speak of God's faithfulness. Like John, we have so much that we share and we share it so that we "may have fellowship" with each other and with those beyond us who wish to participate with us in God's story (1 John 1:3). We also come together to discern where we think God is leading us as congregations, as regional churches and as a nationwide community of faith. I pray that you come to the Gathering with a sense of openness and expectation and leave enriched, challenged and blessed.



Congregational Leadership Ministers



Garry Janzen
Mennonite Church British Columbia



Tim Wiebe-Neufeld
Mennonite Church Alberta



Josh Wallace (Interim)
Mennonite Church Saskatchewan



Michael Pahl (Interim)
Mennonite Church Manitoba



Marilyn Rudy-Froese
Mennonite Church Eastern Canada



Doug Klassen
Mennonite Church Canada

Congregational Leadership Ministers' Report

In the restructuring of Mennonite Canada that came out of Special Assembly 2017, the responsibility for nationwide pastoral leadership and formation were transitioned to the regional church leadership ministers (CLMs). Over the past five years, it has become apparent that CLMs do not have the time to carry out responsibilities for the nationwide agenda. These responsibilities include: receiving and processing applications for Company of 1000 forgivable loans and tuition grants and the Transition into Ministry program; maintaining the binational database for pastors; handling misconduct complaints; and, together with the Community of Spiritual Leaders (COSL), imagining and planning for the future of leadership and formation for our denomination.

Because Mennonite Church Canada faces an acute pastor shortage (not to mention many congregations struggle to find lay leaders to fill key volunteer positions), the area of leadership formation will shortly become a prioritized area of emphasis in the next several years for our nationwide denomination. We are in need of short-term, mid-term and long-term strategies that are in sync with the paradigmatic shift that we and the Western church, find ourselves in. In response to this, Mennonite Church Canada will hire a .5 FTE Associate Executive Minister in fall 2022, whose primary responsibilities will be in the area of leadership and formation. This staff person will provide support to the regional CLMs as they complete the tasks indicated earlier in this report.

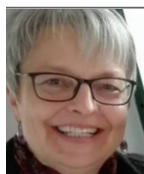
Together with Mennonite Church USA, we have embarked on two significant projects. First, we are rewriting the [Minister's Manual \(1995\)](#) so that it also functions as a guide to ministry for new and new-to-the-Mennonite Church pastors. It will also be inclusive of new Canadian pastors and understanding around intercultural church. This project was made possible by a generous

bequest and will be led by MennoMedia. Many of the worship resources in the 1995 edition now appear in the [Voices Together Worship Leader Edition](#) resource.

Second, we are currently rewriting our "Ministerial Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedure." There are significant complications with the current policy, especially when it is used to investigate misconduct complaints that are not sexual in nature. A writing team has been assembled from the constituencies of both Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church USA. The aim is to have a working draft of the new policy ready later this year (2022), have it approved at annual regional church gatherings in winter/spring 2023 and by Mennonite Church Canada in June of 2023.

Submitted by
Doug Klassen

on behalf of the Congregational Leadership Ministers



Jeanette Hanson
Director, International Witness

International Witness

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of life... (1 John 1:1)

What is in your hands?

“What is in your hands? What is it that God has already given you and your group of believers that will bless your community and bring healing and hope to people in your neighbourhood?”

Thailand

This is the question that Witness workers Tom and Christine Poovong ask lay leaders in the more than 50 house churches in Thailand who work together in a network called Friends of Grace Church Association. Their answers are creative: bamboo, harvested regularly for a small cottage industry, makes cooking skewers, providing badly needed income for villagers; a piece of land on which sustainable agriculture is practised and taught; an open house for children in need of homework help and a safe space to wait after school while their parents finish work; a house and a job for a homeless family; music lessons, soccer clubs, etc. There is much going on in the hands of these believers.

If we look at the ministry of Mennonite Church Canada International Witness in about 17 countries around the



Tom & Christine poovong with their kids Joseph and Phimchanok

world, we also see a diverse response to the question “What is in your hands?”

South Korea

In a country that is still at war 70 years after the Korean armistice, ministry in South Korea focuses on building peace. Witness workers Bock Ki Kim and Sook Kyoung Park work together with others in Mennonite Church South Korea and the Korean Anabaptist Centre in church planting and writing and teaching in peace theology, as well as establishing peacebuilding initiatives in their community of Chuncheon. Sook Kyoung hosts 25 community children in an after-school program in her home every day.



Bock Ki Kim and Sook Kyoung Park

She creates a safe space for learning in contrast to often-competitive school systems. The Chuncheon Community Peace Center, founded in 2019 by Bock Ki with two community volunteers, is now a self-sufficient organization with eight facilitators for restorative policing programs and 12 facilitators for restorative school programs. They are training more facilitators as demand increases for their services in the community and education system.

Philippines

Enduring several waves of colonial and ethnic tensions, the often-violent island of Mindanao, Philippines, was also the birthplace of PeaceBuilders Community Inc. (PBCI) in 2006. Peace with God, peace with self, peace with others and peace with the earth is part of the organization’s teaching instilled by Witness workers Lakan Sumulong and Lakambini Mapayapa (Dann and Joji Pantoja). PBCI has formed practical peacebuilding capacity in a variety of community groups, including churches, farming cooperatives and NGOs. With many months of strict COVID-19 lockdowns, PBCI training has been slower in



Lakan Sumulong and Lakambini Papayapa - Witness Workers in Philippines

recent years but there has been an increase in online training and resourcing. With 11 out of 37 Peace and Reconciliation teams dependent on coffee production and sales through Coffee for Peace, another initiative begun by Lakan and Lakambini, it was also a difficult time for these groups. The recent reopening of the economy has helped. Coffee for Peace has also made use of online marketing and sales during this time. They have taken on consulting services for other NGOs in sustainable, fair-trade coffee production.

Myanmar

Wracked by violence and a deadly surge of COVID-19, many in Myanmar fled from their homes following the military coup in 2021. Some groups of believers are asking Mennonite Church Canada for one thing – teaching in peace theology. They want training as lay leaders and evangelists in Jesus’ teaching of peace. This is the gift



Worship in Myanmar

that they want to give their neighbours – some of whom are part of the armed Christian resistance to the military. They say, “If the church doesn’t teach peace, who will?” Myanmar Mission International, connected with Mennonite Chin congregations in Canada, is working with groups of church leaders serving both Chin and Burmese ethnic congregations.

Japan

The Tokyo Area Fellowship of Mennonite Churches is responsible for the Tokyo Mennonite Centre, an aging building and resource centre with a new vision for a new



Gerald and Rie Neufeld and Rena, Jay, Irene



Spring cleaning at Anabaptist Centre - Tokyo

generation of believers. Former Witness workers (from 1995-2008) Gerald and Rie Neufeld, who are again living in Tokyo, have committed to working with these churches not only to help bring this vision to life but also to work as catalysts for relationship building with Mennonite Church Canada and other ministries in Asia.



Pastor Y works with groups of church leaders that are interested in exploring Anabaptist teaching in China.

China

In the hands of Chinese church leaders, teaching of Anabaptist stories, beliefs and practises have become increasingly relevant as they experience a tightening of government restrictions to their practice of religion. These believers resonate not only with the stories of early Anabaptists standing up for their faith in times of danger but also with an Anabaptist understanding of church and state. Much of the Christian teaching in China has been focused on building a “Christian nation,” something they reject as not biblical. Instead, they are using this gift of Anabaptist teaching to strengthen their faith and reach out to be salt and light in their communities in difficult times.

Ethiopia

The Meserete Kristos Church in Ethiopia has a strong legacy of education through Meserete Kristos Seminary. They use this to build stronger church leaders and teachers for smaller regional Bible colleges. Witness workers Werner and Joanne De Jong have been working at the seminary since early 2022 in teaching and support roles as the school transitions to become a full MDiv-granting institution.



Werner and
Joanne De Jong

In the midst of significant ethnic violence and civil war, the church embodies the Gospel of Peace with congregations representing most ethnic groups in Ethiopia. Students at the college study in English but most will serve as pastors or college teachers in their own languages after graduation.

Colombia

Iglesia Cristiana Menonita de Colombia (IMCOL) uses their church buildings to create space where God's kingdom can flourish. For some congregations that meant opening their churches as safe spaces during last year's nationwide protests against unjust government practises. Others are taking in Colombians displaced by violence or providing food and help finding employment and housing for refugees from Venezuela. Many are learning about caring for creation through gardening, sustainable agriculture, recycling and advocating for the greening of the Colombian economy. Mennonite Church Canada Witness also supports these congregations in leadership development, pastoral in-service training and seminary education.

Witness Support Networks

Are you or is your congregation ready to support and learn from what God is doing in our International Witness ministry? Consider joining a Witness Support Network. Currently, we have networks supporting eight of our ministries in China, Thailand, South Korea, Philippines, Palestine/Israel, Benin, Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission, Ethiopia and Colombia. A new group is forming to support ministry in Myanmar. Congregations and individuals interested in supporting a specific ministry meet online quarterly each year to hear directly from international ministry partners, to share what they are doing in their own communities and to build relationships that go beyond borders of countries, languages and cultures. Becoming

a global church enriches the life of the local church. Relationships with international siblings in faith, some built over decades, are a precious resource for us as Canadian congregations. Join us as we build relationships and share resources.

For more information on how you can join a Witness Support Network or to donate to a specific ministry visit: <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/international-witness> or contact your regional church.

International Witness Sunday

Since 2020, Mennonite Church Canada has encouraged congregations to celebrate International Witness ministries during a Sunday worship service in October. Worship resources are available to congregations such as recorded sermons ministry updates, an order of service, and children's stories. In 2022, International Witness Sunday will take place on October 16.

I pray that at Gathering 2022 you are inspired to ask yourself and your congregation, "What is in my/our hands? How can we use the gifts that God has given us to support the global church?" May God take these gifts and multiply them like the loaves and fishes to share with our global faith family.



Doug Klassen

Executive Minister, Mennonite Church Canada

Indigenous-Settler Relations

On April 11, 2022, the full-time Indigenous-Settler Relations Director position at Mennonite Church Canada came to an end. Steve Heinrichs, who served in the role for 10 years, ended his service with the denomination.

In September 2021, regional church leadership indicated a desire to shift the ISR director role to focus more on resourcing regional-church working groups and facilitating relationship-building between congregations and Indigenous communities in the regions. Nationwide advocacy has been a strong component of the ISR program and this shift would localize advocacy efforts and emphasize relationship-building at the regional church level and between local congregations and their Indigenous neighbours. The new ISR role would also facilitate collaboration between regional church working groups across the nationwide church and provide resources to groups who seek to engage in advocacy. Lastly, the role would continue to represent Mennonite Church Canada's commitment to reconciliation among its ecumenical partners.

In light of plans for the FYE 2023 budget—the need to create a .5 FTE associate executive minister position to assist with nationwide leadership and formation; and a two-year-term, .5 FTE climate action position—executive leadership felt that a .5 FTE ISR position could resource and help the regional churches collaborate and represent Mennonite Church Canada among our partners.

Two criticisms that I have received and accept were that executive and regional church leadership did not consult with Indigenous groups before making the changes and did not make the area of financial need known to congregations and individuals before cutting the full-time ISR position. Moving forward, we will consult Indigenous Christian leaders as we draft the new, nationwide ISR position. This position will also be informed by the new "Guiding Understandings for Nationwide Decision-building and Operations" document (see page 120). In regards to awareness around funding, priorities for financing nationwide ministries are set by regional church leadership and approved by Joint Council. Mennonite Church Canada does not raise funds apart from this arrangement, except for International Witness workers. Communicating nationwide

financial needs and news to congregations is an ongoing challenge but my hope is that this improves under the new terms in our Operating Agreement (see page 93).

In the meantime, participants in the Be it Resolved Challenge, an initiative Steve began last June, had their final meeting together on National Indigenous Peoples Day. They shared their commitments and resolutions with each other to motivate and inspire one another along the path of reconciliation and relationship-building.

I am immensely thankful for the hard work Steve has given to our nationwide church family over the years and acknowledge the laments I've received over the end of his service. My prayer is that his good work from the past decade will continue on in the hearts of the regional churches as we seek to learn from and build community with our Indigenous neighbours.

For summaries of ISR initiatives over the past three years, please see Mennonite Church Canada's annual reports, which are available through CommonWord.



Arlyn Friesen Epp

Director, Commonword

CommonWord
Bookstore and Resource Centre

CommonWord

CommonWord is your nationwide bookstore and resource centre. We're here to connect you with Anabaptist and related materials for your home and congregation. Thousands of items are available to buy, borrow or access online through commonword.ca or by contacting us via email or phone. We're thrilled to help make these connections with you!

COVID-19, these last several years, has altered some of our operations, though we are mainly back to pre-pandemic protocols and our staff have been flexible and dedicated throughout. We are grateful to have come through these last two years without financial penalty. Online sales rose dramatically during this period (and, at its peak, shipping volume tripled), even as in-store operations needed to wind down. Our loan activity, on the other hand, declined sharply as congregations managed other priorities in a desperate time. We are grateful that loan circulation is rebounding these last months and we anticipate an eventual return to pre-pandemic levels. Online interactions remain strong and in-store customer traffic is slowly returning. We have been open full hours since September 2021.

I have structured this report as several answers to frequently asked questions. I trust this will provide a "post-COVID" refresher or help familiarize you with CommonWord if you haven't used our services before.

How might I learn about CommonWord, its resources and its services?

- Make commonword.ca your friend! Peruse our website and search by keyword, theme, name or scripture reference. Results can easily be filtered by genre, type, audience, church season, etc. Multiple shopping options are given for each resource (to buy, borrow or access online) and may include further value-added features (like related videos, study guides, interviews, etc.).
- Phone or email us with general or specific questions. Sometimes you know what you are looking for; other times you may not. We're glad to field your inquiries!
- Sign up for our bi-weekly newsletter, the *Curator*. Follow us on Facebook or Instagram. We regularly post about new and seasonal materials.

- Encourage your church to accept one of our RSS fees (or ask us to tailor a feed for your purposes). This is a great way to profile CommonWord on your congregation's website.

Why would I buy from CommonWord if I can get it from Ama... somewhere else?

Silly question. CommonWord's your bookstore. We have competitive prices. We'll special order any title (even if it's not on our website). And you get friendly customer service (AnaSara) on the phone or by email if you contact us. Support your local bookstore, too, but don't forget about your one-stop shop in Winnipeg.

You mean I don't have to buy a resource?

This is the genius of CommonWord. Resources are available in multiple ways and need not be purchased. There are thousands of resources available to borrow – and they all ship free, both ways, anywhere in Canada. Borrow one or more titles for four weeks. Borrow a *Cheaper by the Dozen* congregational order for a longer period.

Or perhaps you need something for tomorrow's worship service? All our digital materials are free to view or download immediately. We collaborate with [Together in Worship](#), which strengthens our digital worship collection immeasurably.

How do you begin to choose resources from an expansive Christian market?

There are many! And although we are quite selective, we add on average about three new resources each day.

We scour, read and unearth, looking for materials that help strengthen our Anabaptist identity. We keep in mind what the church is currently discussing. We try to cover gaps. We find aspirational materials, resources that encourage and form, and items that challenge, even confront and stretch us. We discover materials for all ages, for personal and congregational use.

But this curation work cannot be done on our own. We depend on your recommendations! What are you reading? What is working well in your congregation? Where are the challenges, the gaps, the resource limitations?

Please offer us "community-developed" materials that have worked well in your contexts. These are tested



resources that are unique to our wider church family. Are there local writers and artists from your congregation who have materials to share with the wider church? Perhaps you are or know a photographer who would like to contribute to our new [Visio Divina](#) project?

In addition to these carefully selected resources, we also depend on our partners' curated materials. By gathering an aggregate collection of materials from trusted resource providers, CommonWord makes available a growing list of Anabaptist resources in one location.

A sampling of partner materials, in no particular order, include:

- Digital copies of the *Anabaptist Witness* journal
- Hundreds of online worship materials, shared with Together in Worship
- MennoMedia's Herald Press titles and related online study guides, *Voices Together* products, *Leader* magazine, etc.
- Digital copies of CMU's *Vision* journal, *Face2Face* community conversations, other lecture series and more
- CMU Press titles
- Online *Canadian Mennonite* feature articles
- Niche, self-published book titles from our constituency
- Digital copies of MCC's *Intersections* journal
- Mennonite Church Canada's reports, minutes, publications (like Edith and Neill von Gunten's new book *Walking Together*), and other resources, including a large Indigenous-Settler Relations collection
- All episodes of the *MennoCast*; links to other Anabaptist podcasts
- Online worship materials from Mennonite World Conference, Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Community Peacemaker Teams and Mennonite Central Committee
- Institute of Mennonite Studies (AMBS) titles
- Resources associated with MCC's *Abuse Response and Prevention* initiatives
- Digital copies of the *Korean Anabaptist Journal* and the *Korean Peace Journal Plan P* series
- *Peaceful at Heart* digital resources, including podcast, audiobook and author interviews
- Digital resources from Mennonite Church USA, like curricula and worship materials
- Digital materials from our regional churches, including resources from the various working groups (Indigenous-Settler, Palestine-Israel, Climate Justice).

Where do I find your Thai curries or verenike?

It's true. Our bookstore sells specialty foods! Also fair-trade gifts, Indigenous products, greeting cards and much more. Although we would love to be able to ship locally made pizzas to you, most of these items are available in-store only. Please stop in if you're ever traveling through Winnipeg!

In the meantime, can I find CommonWord at Gathering 2022?

Absolutely! Please stop by our resource tables in the foyer. We'd love to chat!

What does a "post-pandemic" CommonWord look like?

As we look toward the future of Anabaptist resourcing, the need for faith formation resources that shape our collective identity is arguably greater than ever. Curation, accessibility, collaboration, personal customer service will all be essential in a time when the church is re-imagining itself. With our flexible web platform, dedicated staff and a strong commitment from Mennonite Church Canada and Canadian Mennonite University, CommonWord is well positioned to be an important resource partner and an aggregate source of well-chosen materials – to buy, borrow or access online.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement!



Sustainable
Leadership
Group
Members



Ian Funk

Mennonite Church
British Columbia



Allan Hiebert

Joint Council



Joanne Moyer

Mennonite Creation
Care Network /
Mennonite Church
Alberta



John Reimer

Mennonite Church
Eastern Canada



**Marta Bunnett
Wiebe**

Mennonite Church
Manitoba



**Tim Wiebe-
Neufeld**

Executive
Ministers
Group (EMG)



**Andre
Wiederkehr**

Mennonite Church
Eastern Canada

Sustainability¹ Leadership Group Report for Gathering 2022

As a Mennonite Church, we believe that all creation ultimately belongs to God and that “human beings have been made for relationship with God, to live in peace with each other, and to take care of the rest of creation” (*Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective*, articles 5 and 6). In response to increasing concerns about the environmental and social impacts of human activity, in January of 2020 MC Canada’s Joint Council approved the formation of the Sustainability Leadership Group (SLG). The goals of this group include:

1. Providing leadership to improve the environmental and social sustainability of programs and ministries across the Mennonite Church Canada.
2. Introducing measures to increase the environmental and social sustainability of MC Canada’s activities.
3. Collaborating with MC Canada’s partners in efforts to “incarnate” faith principles related to creation and social care. This could include developing tools and frameworks to help congregations, regional churches, the nationwide church and partner agencies address the sustainability of their activities.

In the two-and-a-half years since its inception the SLG has worked on the following projects and initiatives:

- Sponsoring the development of “God’s Green Church: Becoming a Creation Care Congregation.” This collaboration with students from The King’s University in Edmonton outlines practical steps churches can take to become more environmentally sustainable. It is available from [CommonWord](#).
- Developing a program to help offset carbon emissions caused by MC Canada travel, including travel to meetings and Gatherings. A travel levy contributes to an MC Canada creation care fund, which will then issue grants to congregations for projects to reduce their carbon emissions. More information can be found [here](#).
- Collaborating with Steve Heinrichs to lead an online learning series called “Creator’s Call in a Climate Emergency.” Ian Funk joined Steve to provide leadership to the group, which included a study of Seth Klein’s book *A Good War: Mobilizing Canada for the Climate Emergency*. Ian is following up with those involved to see what next steps may arise out of this nationwide conversation.
- Offering sustainability advice to planners for the 2022 Gathering in Edmonton. Joanne Moyer will be looking for feedback to see what updates might be helpful for the [Mennonite Creation Care Network’s Green Guidelines for Conference Planners](#).
- Providing feedback for Joint Council and the EMG in efforts to increase MC Canada’s response to Climate Change. SLG is prepared to focus its efforts to give higher priority to addressing Climate Change in its work.
- Working with MC Canada staff to promote the “[Season of Creation](#),” an ecumenical initiative encouraging churches to use September each year to “join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home.”

¹ In this document the word “sustainability” seeks to simultaneously address environmental, social and economic components. To be sustainable each of these three aspects must meet “the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (Gro Harlem Brundtland, *Our Common Future*, 1987).



SLG has several projects on their plate for the coming months:

- Leading workshops at Gathering 2022, details of which can be found at <https://mennonitechurch.ca/gathering2022>.
- Connecting with regional networks and working groups looking to address climate change and other creation care issues.
- Developing MC Canada's [webpage](#) focused on creation care and climate resources.

SLG is also examining certification to encourage reduction of emissions; considering signing onto campaigns such as "For the Love of Creation" (<https://fortheloveofcreation.ca/>) and the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty" (<https://fossilfuel treaty.org/>); offering research and advice regarding opportunities for emission reductions when considering renovations of MC Canada facilities; discerning ways to address simplicity as part of a creation care and social good response; and leaning into partnerships such as the Mennonite Creation Care Network to strengthen the sustainability response of the church.

There are far more ideas and options available to the SLG than it has the capacity to address. The movement of MC Canada to hire a .5 FTE creation care staff position devoted to addressing issues of climate change and will allow for an expansion of what can be accomplished. This position will begin in fall of 2022.

I have enjoyed working with a group of people devoted to looking for practical ways to live into more environmentally and socially sustainable ways of being the church. The SLG looks forward to continuing to assist the church in living into its calling!

Submitted by
Tim Wiebe-Neufeld
SLG Chair



Young Leaders' Experience (YLE)

Report to MC Canada

Ten young adults from across the nationwide church are taking part in the Young Leaders Experience (YLE) at *We Declare: what we have seen and heard*, Gathering 2022 in Edmonton, from July 28 to Aug. 1.

This program was envisioned by Kathy Giesbrecht (Director of Church Engagement, MCM) and came out of a desire to identify and invest in the young leaders among us with the purpose of inviting their perspectives, insights and deep concerns into nationwide conversations and discernments.

Our participants range in age from 17 to 22 and come from across the regional churches of Mennonite Church Canada. They are taking part in the Gathering's main sessions, engaging with MC Canada denominational leaders and enjoying activities on their own throughout the weekend to build connection and fellowship with one another. Six of the participants are also delegates and will have voting power in the Gathering business sessions.

Doug Klassen, Executive Minister of Mennonite Church Canada, recently noted, "The formation of leaders within our denomination is priority for Mennonite Church Canada. It's not only crucial to inspire our future pastors and lay leaders, it's also biblical. Jethro and Moses, Eli and Samuel, Elizabeth and Mary – God is at work when we share life together."

Four hosts are guiding YLE participants throughout the weekend: Phil Campbell-Enns and YLE Coordinator Larissa Pahl, both from Mennonite Church Manitoba; Liam Kachkar from Mennonite Church Alberta and Christen Kong from Mennonite Church Eastern Canada.

YLE programming kicks off on Thursday evening, July 28, at Evario Events Centre with a welcome and worship time. Participants will have their own workshop on Friday morning and will attend Glen Guyton's plenary at *A Day for Spiritual Leaders* at Edmonton First Mennonite Church in the afternoon. They will also help facilitate the main Gathering workshop, "Young Leaders give voice to the Church" on Saturday afternoon and will be the Scripture readers throughout the weekend's programmed worship. Two local festivals in Edmonton are also on the YLE agenda.

Funds for the Young Leaders Experience come out of the Formation Bequest Fund, a fund designated for leadership development within Mennonite Church Canada.

We are excited to welcome our young leaders to Gathering this summer and hope this will be an enriching, integrated, meaningful, and even fun, experience for them.

Submitted by
Larissa Pahl
YLE Coordinator



Meet our YLE Young Leaders!



**David
Barg**

Eden Mennonite Church, Chilliwack, B.C.



**Ayub
Regehr**

Glenlea Mennonite Church, Glenlea, MB



**Merveille
Mwankin**

Hagerman Mennonite Church, Markham, ON



**Trever
Renshaw**

Level Ground Mennonite Church, Abbotsford, B.C.



**Lorena Diller
Harder**

St. Jacobs Mennonite Church, St. Jacobs, ON



**Nicole
Pelletier**

Mennonite Fellowship Montreal, Montreal, QC



**Helena
Chokpelleh**

Holyrood Mennonite Church, Edmonton, AB



**Melanie
Jonnalagadda**

Valleyview Mennonite Church, London, ON



**Elijah
Koop**

Foothills Mennonite Church, Calgary, AB



Riley Koop

Vineland United Mennonite Church, Vineland, ON

Regional Churches

Mennonite Church Canada
Gathering 2022
Report Book



Brenda Tiessen-Wiens
Moderator, Mennonite Church Alberta



Mennonite Church Alberta Annual Report 2021

As we stand on the shifting sands of the COVID-19 pandemic, we're challenged to examine the places we are connected and rooted, and how we express God's love in contexts of ongoing uncertainty. In 2021, MCA was filled with numerous expressions of the connections that we share with one another as a community of congregations.

Nurturing One Another

Tim Wiebe-Neufeld (Executive Minister) provides support for pastors and congregations including walking with congregations as they navigate transitions in leadership. He engages in meetings with chairs, treasurers and administrators, and connects with congregants through speaking opportunities.

Pastors Council is a place for our leaders to dialogue, vision and encourage each other as they provide spiritual leadership during these challenging times. Delegate session workshops, the Heritage Retreat, Faith Studies sessions and the Pastors Retreat provided opportunities to participate in discussion, discernment and direction-setting.

Three post-secondary students were provided with bursaries as they explore faith and vocation at Anabaptist/Mennonite schools. The MC Canada Sustainability Leadership Group provides leadership and guidance as congregations examine their climate impacts and engage in creation care.

Spreading our Wings

Our MCA community stretched and adjusted to staff changes in 2021. In addition to welcoming two new staff, we celebrated 10 years of ministry and retirement with Donna Entz (North Edmonton Ministry). Werner & Joanne De Jong received an invitation to ministry in Ethiopia. They join Tom and Christine Poovong (Thailand) as Alberta-based workers in our team of International Witness workers who train and provide resources to church leaders. International Witness is made up of 13 country partnerships around the world.

Celebrations

We celebrated together in 2021! On March 21, our 12 congregations met together on zoom to worship God, who invites us into community. Throughout the year congregations worshipped together, apart, in person and online, building on our E3 theme: Encountering, Embracing, Embodying Christ in Community.

Welcoming New Staff



Steven Giugovaz joined MCA as our Church Engagement Minister. He focuses on connecting MCA

congregations, exploring missional callings and building connections with the ministries we share.



Suzanne Gross began as North Edmonton Ministry Interim Worker. This Christ-centred ministry focuses on relationships and draws our interfaith

community together through witness, peace-building, hospitality, and dialogue.

Upcoming Events

Snow Camp - February 26, 27



Annual Delegate Sessions

including the launch of E3:Y3 March 19 by zoom



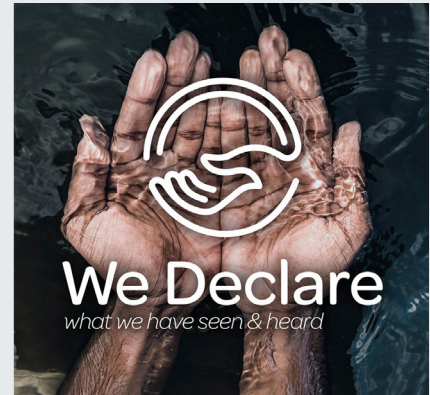
The return of summer camp elicited celebrations for people of all ages, from children, to parents, to staff and a range of volunteers. Camp Valaqua provides a valuable space to encounter God in nature and for future leaders to gain skills and experience.

The Congregational Leadership Committee has the privilege of exploring one of our greatest celebrations together with congregations - the call to ministry and ordination of leaders!

Faith and Faithfulness

These, and the numerous other expressions of faith and faithfulness in MCA staff and committee members, and the stories we hear from our congregations are evidence of God’s goodness. They’re evidence of a community that trusts one another and of people who are inspired and empowered by their faith. We don’t know what curves the road ahead will hold, but we enter 2022 knowing God is faithful.

Gathering 2022



We Declare: Edmonton
July 29 - August 1



Amplify: Camp Valaqua
July 31- August 4

**Garry Janzen**

Executive Minister, Mennonite Church British Columbia



Mennonite Church British Columbia

Story to the Nationwide Regional Churches for 2021

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

As we reflect on this past year, it has brought many more challenges. We spoke of 2020 being a year like none other with all the uncertainties brought to us by COVID-19. With many of the ravages of climate change landing in B.C., including a heat dome, atmospheric rivers, and the destructive effects of fire and flooding, we are moved to look for what might give us hope. Romans 15 reminds us of where our hope comes from, ending with the benediction in verse 13 above. May this hope that we find in Jesus sustain us and carry us as our theme in 2022.

In 2021 we affirmed a new structure for MCBC. Task Groups have grown, and others have been formed. There is much that our people have said they care about and want to act on, and the work of our task groups reflect these interests. Our task groups are too numerous to name them all here. We give thanks to our Ministry Leaders: Andrew Haak (Cultivating Anabaptist Vision), Henry Krause (Engaging God's World) and Bob Boehr (Growing Community). They do quarterly reports on the work in their ministry area. As Leadership Board members they also help with giving overall direction to MCBC.

We have said that the local congregation is the foundational unit of the church. It has been brought to our attention that we still need to figure out how our MCBC task groups connect with this commitment. It might be good for those who are in task groups to let their congregations know what they are doing, and for congregational leadership to become familiar with the task

groups that their people have joined and learn about their work.

MCBC has developed an Indigenous Land Acknowledgement statement. Here it is, "We respectfully and gratefully acknowledge that we gather on the unceded, traditional, and ancestral lands of Indigenous First Nations." It is designed to be general for use anywhere in the province, brief, and adaptable to the specific Indigenous lands on which any MCBC event may be taking place.

In September I announced my plans to retire mid-2022. The exact time will be dependant on when a new Executive Minister is found. There is hope that I might have overlap with the new person for some orientation. I am in my 15th year, and I am so thankful for this rich experience.

The 2022 MCBC Annual Gathering on February 26th will be on Zoom. Video reports will be posted in advance.

This fall it became possible to meet in person again for worship services. This gave opportunity to catch up with baptisms, pastoral installations, licensing, and ordination. It was a great pleasure to be able to do these celebrations, but with the continuing uncertainties regarding COVID, preparation was challenging. We learned to do a no-touch laying on of hands.

Appreciation needs to be given to the Calling & Credentialing Task Group for the many Zoom interviews they did and other hard work they were called to do virtually this year. Also, the Intercultural Church Task Group has been meeting with our non-English pastors and others interested in MCBC congregations becoming intercultural, thanks to the work of Joon Park. This is a very positive and hopeful initiative.

As 2022 unfolds, hopefully this will be the year to move beyond COVID-19 as a pandemic. Our Nationwide work together as the Mennonite Church gives me hope. May we be filled with hope in whatever circumstances we find ourselves, and may we find our way to amazing new beginnings as we serve together in God's work.



Leah Reesor-Keller
Executive Minister, Mennonite Church Eastern Canada



Mennonite Church Eastern Canada

Word from the Executive Minister

Greetings from MCEC!

I am so grateful to be a part of the MCEC community of faith. I continue to be amazed by the resiliency and faithfulness of MCEC congregations as together we extend the peace of Jesus Christ in our neighbourhoods, nationwide as Mennonite Church Canada, and globally.

Over this past year, we have been on a journey listening for God as we build a shared story about who we are and who God is calling us to become. Where is God at work doing new things? What seeds are sprouting around us? Our verse for this time of community discernment is Isaiah 43:19. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

Through interviews, social media, ten Courageous Imagination podcast episodes, conversation forums and regional gatherings, we gathered input and feedback on new identity and priority statements as we look to where God is calling us together into the future. Each conversation, whether in-person or online, was filled with hopefulness and deep insight. Across our community, we heard a deep desire to be open to transformation by the Spirit, to follow Jesus with costly discipleship as we put our faith into action, and a longing to stay rooted and grounded in scripture, prayer and worship. Our Annual Gathering April 29-30, 2022 will be a significant milestone on our journey as we prayerfully receive and consider the updated identity and mission statements, along with priorities building on the feedback from the Courageous Imagination listening journey.



Mentoring relationships are an important part of Transitioning into Ministry – Pastors Jim and Jonathan



Fall Courageous Imagination gatherings in Leamington, Niagara, Kitchener, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal and Zoom.

MCEC At a Glance

MCEC Community of Congregations

- 99 congregations
- 82 full membership
- 16 provisional membership
- 1 long-term church plant
- Worship in 19 languages

Supporting Pastors & Congregational Leaders

- 5 pastors ordained
- 9 pastors licensed
- 13 pastors installed
- 5 Transitioning into Ministry (TiM) graduates
- 40 Admin Day participants from across Canada – online networking day for
- administrative assistants
- 50 pastors supporting each other through 5 online Pastoral Conversations
- Monthly youth leader conversations

Supporting Congregations

- Innovate – providing discipleship resourcing to 11 congregations through ReLearning Community and Community of Practice
- Creative Faith: Live youth online Sunday School series – 20-30 participants
- 2 active working groups
 - ◊ Truth & Reconciliation
 - ◊ Palestine Israel Network

Congregational Transitions

New Provisional Congregations

- Hiway Amalak, Ottawa
- Ma Destinée, Montreal

Church Plants

- Online Resourcing Day for 41 Church Planters focused on Courageous Self-Care
- Active conversations with 40 church plants/ congregations

**Michael Pahl**

Executive Minister, Mennonite Church Manitoba



Mennonite Church Manitoba

2021 Year in Review

Mennonite Church Manitoba (www.mennochurch.mb.ca) is a community of 38 member congregations with almost 7,000 individual members. We gather throughout the province of Manitoba in the territories of Treaties 1, 2, 3, and 5, the homelands of diverse Indigenous peoples. We covenant together to follow Jesus and live out the call of Christ within an Anabaptist perspective. We also covenant together with our partner regional churches of MC British Columbia, MC Alberta, MC Saskatchewan, and MC Eastern Canada as Mennonite Church Canada (www.mennonitechurch.ca), to be a nationwide church that extends God's love to our neighbours locally, nationally, and globally.

Another COVID Year

2021 will be remembered as "2020 2.0." The COVID-19 pandemic has continued to ravage the globe, and this has had significant impact on our congregations and pastors as well as our collective ministry as MCM. Pastors are exhausted, programs are scaled back, budgets are tight, and congregations are left wondering who is still part of their fellowship and what their church will look like on the other side of the pandemic. The same realities are true for us as a regional church. Nevertheless, God has been at work among us! Read on for good news of the Spirit's movement within MCM.

Camps with Meaning

Our Camps with Meaning (www.campswithmeaning.org) leaders and staff have done a tremendous job navigating the public health orders to provide a scaled-back summer camp program alongside retreat and rental opportunities. In 2021 we offered seven pop-up camps (4 for youth and 3 for adults with disabilities) at our campsites and churches, and five day camps (1 week at Koinonia, 4 at Assiniboia). We had close to 250 total campers served by 51 total staff. Summer campers played, ate, sang, and learned together around the theme, "Heroes of the Faith."

Support for Pastors and Congregations

MCM staff have visited and walked alongside pastors and congregations in various ways, in person when possible, via phone or Zoom when necessary. Pastor cluster groups have continued to meet, complementing the individual support provided by staff. Staff have worked with church councils and search committees to find interim or long term pastors. Several pastors completed a credentialing process with MCM during 2021, and staff were delighted to participate in installation and ordination services virtually or in person. MCM staff also provide support for congregations in faith formation, worship, congregational care, and local mission, as well as misconduct response, conflict mediation, and resourcing for church councils.

Re-Focused Programs

The range of programs we offer as MCM was reviewed in 2021, leading to a shift in our programs and staffing. Our four primary program areas are now Leadership Ministries (overseen by Rick Neufeld), Congregational Ministries (Kathy Giesbrecht), Mission Ministries, and Camps with Meaning. Dorothy Fontaine is shifting from Director of Mission to Director of Camps with Meaning as of January 1, 2022, and we will be hiring a Director of Mission Engagement to oversee our Mission Ministries as well as to focus on church engagement. In addition, a new Congregational Health Committee has been formed to advise and support Kathy Giesbrecht in the area of Congregational Ministries, looking at ways to increase the health and vitality of our congregations.

New Working Groups

Two new MCM working groups are being added to our MCM Palestine-Israel Network and Woven (Mennonite Women Together). The Manitoba Mennonite Coalition for Indigenous Solidarity (MMCIS) will help our congregations to collaborate regionally for learning and action in solidarity with our Indigenous neighbours, and the MCM Climate Action Working Group (MCM CAWG) will do the same for our congregations related to our response to climate change.



Nationwide Ministry

Just as our ministry as congregations extends beyond our communities as Mennonite Church Manitoba, so our ministry as a regional church extends beyond our province as Mennonite Church Canada. Together with our other regional churches, we provide resourcing for MC Canada congregations and others through our CommonWord resource centre and website (www.commonword.ca). We have worked together in Indigenous-Settler Relations toward living out our commitments to truth and reconciliation. We work with International Witness partners around the world in over a dozen different countries to help bring Jesus' ministry of reconciliation to life in these contexts. We are also committed to significant action nationwide in response to the climate crisis.

Moving Forward

We have two staff exits expected for 2022. Rick Neufeld will be retiring as Director of Leadership Ministries at the end of March, and David Hogue will be likewise be leaving as Site Manager at Camp Assiniboia at the end of April. We are grateful for their ministry among us and wish them well.

We are anticipating our MCM Gathering on March 5. Given the uncertainties in Manitoba related to COVID, this will once again be via Zoom. We are also anticipating our MC Canada Gathering in Edmonton from July 29 to August 1. We encourage all who are able to join us for these events.

2022 looks to be another year of challenge and change, yet with the Spirit of God working in us, among us, and through us in the world. At this point it looks to be "2020 3.0," another year of pandemic. This will continue to create challenges for us as congregations and pastors, and as a regional church. We will face those challenges as we have so far: with an abiding faith in God, with courageous hope for God's goodness to be shown among us, and with a deepening love for one another and for all, especially the most vulnerable of our world.



Mennonite Church Saskatchewan

2021 Annual Report

Mennonite Church Saskatchewan

(MC Sask) is a community of 23 congregations who have covenanted together to be Christ Centred & Sent.

We support each other in ministry, do things together which we cannot do alone, are church together throughout the province, and connect to the larger Mennonite Church body through Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite World Conference.



At the 2021 Annual Delegate Sessions, held via Zoom on March 13, we focused on being '*Called to Hear*,' particularly from one another. We were richly blessed to hear from **Hanley**, **Superb**, and **Zoar** Mennonite Churches about their closures. The legacy and ministry of these communities has widely blessed the Mennonite Church over the years, and hearing their testimonies was a powerful reminder of the importance of our living into our calling as the Church to both '*hear*' and '*here*' (our ADS 2022 theme).

Congregational Transitions

This calling to hear/here was lived into further through a variety of transitions during the year.

Barb and Wilmer Froese completed their term as Interim Pastors at Tiefengrund Rosenort MC on Dec. 31, 2020. **Patrick Preheim** began serving part-time at TRMC in April. On April 4, **Gary Peters** retired as pastor of Hanley MC, and this Sunday also marked the final worship service at Hanley MC. **Harry Harder** retired from Pleasant Point MC on May 15, and Pleasant Point and Warman MC's welcomed **Len Rempel** in June, with a joint installation service held on Oct. 24. On May 31 **Andrea Enns-Gooding** completed her term as pastor at Zoar MC, which was also the final worship service for Zoar MC. Andrea began her time as pastor for Rosthern MC on July 1 and was installed on Sept. 12. On Sept. 30 **Sarah Unrau** resigned as Youth Leader of Nutana Park MC. We were also blessed to have two pastors respond to their calling to serve the wider church through

ordination services: **Susanne Guenther Loewen** (Nutana Park MC, June 27), and **Emily Summach** (Langham MF, Nov. 21)

The Work of the Church

Throughout 2021, we continued to find ways to navigate in-person and online events, and search for ways to meaningfully – and safely – bring our community together and engage in the work of the Church. Online **Mega Menno** game nights became a regular way for youth to connect, and the fun continued when outdoor events at Shekinah and the Youth Farm became possible. Spending time listening to, and resourcing, pastors and congregations was an important part of this year, with pastor's gatherings and shared online services providing meaningful moments of connection. A new workshop, **Reimagine**, is now available to help congregations think about new ways to respond to the call to be the Church. In 2022 we look forward to gathering in Alberta for MC Canada gatherings '**We Declare**' and '**Amplify!**' (*youth*) to connect with our brothers and sisters once again from across MC Canada in fellowship and worship.



Youth fun at Shekinah!

As we look to the year ahead, we invite your prayers as we prepare for **Kirsten Hamm-Epp** to be away on maternity leave (beginning Jan. 31, 2022), and to say farewell to **Ryan Siemens**, who is resigning his role as Executive Minister as of Jan. 31, 2022, to take on the role of Executive Director with Mennonite Central Committee Alberta. Ryan has contributed significantly to the MC Sask community, and his vision, heart for the Church, and laugh will be greatly missed. We are pleased to announcement the hiring of **Josh Wallace** as Interim Executive Minister. Josh has served MC Sask as Church Engagement Minister since 2020, and we are deeply grateful for his willingness to increase his role during



this time of transition. Please pray for all MC Sask staff and leadership as we navigate and prepare for these transitions.

Wishing you Christ's peace and hope,

Ryan Siemens (former Executive Minister),
Kirsten Hamm-Epp, Josh Wallace
and **Marianne Siemens**
(MC Sask Staff)

Communications

Mennonite Church Canada
Gathering 2022
Report Book



Communicators



Darryl Neustaedter Barg
(MCM)



Ruth Bergen Braun
(MCA)



Ken Dueck
(MCBC)



Marianne Siemens
(MC Sask)



Lisa Williams
(MCEC)



Katie Doke Sawatzky
(MC Canada)

MC Canada Communications

Welcome to Gathering 2022, our second event as a nationwide community of faith living out its expression as five regional churches.

It’s been three years since we gathered in Abbotsford, B.C., at Gathering 2019 to Ignite the Imagination of the Church. Much has happened. Since last we met, most of us have spent more time in our homes worshipping from computer screens than we have in our church buildings. The effects of the pandemic on the way we, and the world, communicate have been significant. We now know how to offer hybrid worship services through livestreaming, how to pull off study conferences on Zoom and even how to partake in elements like communion from the comfort of our couches.

Mennonite Church Canada communication is undertaken by myself and the five regional church communicators. We work as a team and during bimonthly meetings brainstorm ways to share information about nationwide ministries and programs with our church communities and with our organizational partners. With a diverse group of constituencies—some of us are responsible for over 100 congregations, others just over 10—each of us bring helpful perspectives on how to effectively share MC Canada news with our members.

Here are some notable highlights from our work over the past three years:

- In early 2020, we invited congregations to pilot the [MC Canada Congregational Website Hub](#), a user-friendly website platform created by Barefoot Creative. As of this summer, we have 22 congregations and camps that have launched new websites through this initiative.
- Each summer since 2020 we have coordinated and shared [online worship services](#) across our nationwide community of faith
- In October 2020 we hosted our first online study conference, [Table Talk: Does the Church Still have Legs?](#), featuring plenaries by Sara Wenger Shenk and talks by faculty from our affiliated Canadian schools.
- [Be it Resolved: Anabaptists & Partner Coalitions Advocate](#)

[for Indigenous Justice 1966-2020](#), edited by Steve Heinrichs and Esther Epp-Tiessen, was published by MC Canada in October 2020; the [Be it Resolved Challenge](#), from June 2021 to June 2022, encouraged participants to create their own resolutions towards reconciliation in their own communities

- We invited congregations to celebrate [International Witness Sunday](#) each October, beginning in 2020, providing them with resources for worship and reflection
- [The Baby and the Bathwater: Aspiration and Reality in the Life of the Church](#), by former general secretary of MC Canada Jack Suderman, was published by MC Canada in the fall of 2021
- [Creator’s Call in a Climate Emergency](#), the first Mennonite Church Canada Community Learning Series, ran from January through March 2022. Hosted by B.C. pastor Ian Funk and former Indigenous-Settler Relations director Steve Heinrichs, the series assigned participants weekly readings and featured guest speakers, such as authors Seth Klein and Sarah Augustine, on the topics of decarbonization and decolonization.

I look forward to more collaborating with our regional church communicators in the months and years ahead.

Submitted by
Katie Doke Sawatzky
Communications Coordinator/Writer,
Mennonite Church Canada
on behalf of the regional church communicators

CANADIAN MENNONITE

Fostering dialogue on issues facing Mennonites in Canada

1-800-378-252
 www.canadianmennonite.org
 facebook: @Canadian.Mennonite
 twitter: @canmenno
 instagram: @canadianmennonite

Canadian Mennonite

Our Mission

Canadian Mennonite tells the stories of our church family. With 26 issues per year, our website and social media, *Canadian Mennonite* also offers a place to talk about current faith issues. We are inspired by Paul’s letter to the Hebrews, exhorting the church to spur one another on to love and good deeds. Sharing diverse perspectives in an atmosphere of respect helps us all grow as caring congregations and a nationwide community that makes a difference in the world.



The Every Home Plan

Through the Every Home Plan, people from Mennonite Church Canada congregations subscribe to the magazine at half the cost of a regular subscription. Fees are paid collectively through the church. Talk to your church administrator for details.

Church administrators play an important role in the Every Home Plan. They:

- Maintain the subscription list for their congregation.
- Send Milestone announcements (births, baptisms, marriages and deaths) to share with the wider church family. Milestones are printed in every issue.

More information about the Every Home Plan is available at canadianmennonite.org/church-administrators.

To add digital delivery to an existing print subscription, email Graham at office@canadianmennonite.org.

Whether you read the magazine, visit our website or follow us on social media, *Canadian Mennonite* is grateful that you connect with church family through the magazine.

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up on meeting together... but encouraging one another...”

Canadian Mennonite in 2021

- 26 issues
- 1005 articles about the church in Canada and beyond
- 5,500 followers on social media
- 9,500 subscribers
- 200,000 website visitors



Ways to connect

- **Subscribe** to get the magazine by mail, email or both. 26 issues per year (22 print plus 4 digital-only).
- **Sign up** for *CM Now*—a free, biweekly email with links to recent stories.
- **Join CM Events**—online panel discussion to talk about current events in the church and the world.
- **Write** letters or web comments in response to articles.

Like to take photos?

Individuals are welcome to submit photos and captions from church events for us to consider publishing in an upcoming issue.

Submissions

General: submissions@canadianmennonite.org

Readers Write: letters@canadianmennonite.org

Obituaries: obituaries@canadianmennonite.org

Events: calendar@canadianmennonite.org





Join the MC Canada Congregational Website Hub



congregation • regional church • nationwide

Website

Your congregational website supported by a larger hub;

- User-friendly
- Little technical knowledge required
- Photo galleries, video and audio blogs, news pages, social media integration, sermon uploads
- Mobile friendly
- Autonomous site protected by firewalls and encryption
- Training, ongoing support and maintenance provided

Online Registration

Simple online registration interface for events and more:

- Virtual worship service registration
- Sign up for a Bible study program
- Organize meal care for those who are sick
- Streamline your Gifts Discernment process
- No more need for third-party software

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
- Generates tax receipts
- Accepts all major credit cards (credit card information is secure and not contained in the database)
- Comes with database that tracks 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

Sign up at www.mennonitechurch.ca/web-hub

Resources

Mennonite Church Canada
Gathering 2022
Report Book



MennoMedia

New Curriculae

At MennoMedia we publish 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 curricula, periodicals, and hymnals reach a broad spectrum of evangelical, mainline, and Anabaptist readers and congregations, cultivating passion for faith formation and an active life of discipleship.



Shine: Living in God's Light

Welcome children and youth to a place where they are known and loved, where their questions are taken seriously, and where they can gather to hear God's story and together find meaning for their lives. Shine guides children and youth to stretch and grow toward God's light, and then shine that light to others.

For those raising children in the Anabaptist tradition, the importance of teaching impressionable, curious hearts and minds about faith from an Anabaptist perspective is essential. Whether you are looking for Sunday curriculum, faith formation activities for families, or whole-church experiences around the biblical story, Shine has options to suit your church's needs.

Shine equips children to

- Grow in relationship with Jesus
- Explore God's story together
- Serve one another



New Resources for the entire church from Herald Press



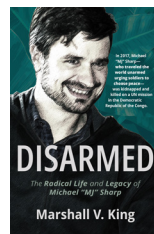
Been in the Struggle *Pursuing an Antiracist Spirituality*

Been in the Struggle nurtures, challenges, and fosters the work and witness of dismantling racism for the long haul. Filled with wisdom and insight from nearly three decades of partnering across racial lines, authors Regina Shands Stoltzfus and Tobin Miller Shearer offer a powerful mix of practical direction and poignant reflection to empower and sustain those working to dismantle racism, regardless of their stage on the journey.



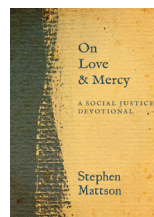
The Space Between Us *Conversations about Transforming Conflict*

Conflict is inevitable. But rather than approaching conflicts as threats or problems to be solved, what if we could see our disagreements as opportunities for personal growth? Facilitator and mediator Betty Pries gently guides readers toward seeing discord as an opportunity for positive change and a way to build resilience. Pries offers practical skills for engaging conflict and casts a vision for a more joy-filled future.



Disarmed *The Radical Life and Legacy of Michael "MJ" Sharp*

Michael "MJ" Sharp was a modern Mennonite armed with wit and intellect, but not a gun. At 34 years old, MJ was working in the Democratic Republic of the Congo—urging rebels to lay down their weapons—when he was murdered. This gripping account explores what compelled MJ to travel the world working for peace and the impact of his life and death in the ongoing story of Christian peacemaking.



On Love and Mercy *A Social Justice Devotional*

A 60-day devotional that invites readers to expand their vision of both personal faith in God and the redemptive work of social action. Breaking down the premise that Christians must choose between being either socially conscience or theologically sound, Stephen Mattson offers the hopeful message that Jesus—and Christianity—is both. Each day's entry offers a much-needed source of affirmation, solidarity, and encouragement.

**Conrad Stoesz**

Archivist, Mennonite Heritage Archives

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www.mhsc.ca

Mennonite Heritage Archives

April 2022

The archives continues to be a busy place collecting, processing, and supporting the research interests of its constituency. While COVID-19 has impacted the archives and specifically its accessibility for research, MHA is responding with more online resources. MHA's staff have spoken into the current debate concerning Mennonites and communicable diseases through print, social media, and radio. This year our finances are largely as expected and support from our partners and individual donors remains strong. Staff include Conrad Stoesz and Selenna Wolfe.

2022 marks the end of an era for the Mennonite Heritage Archives with the passing of Dr. Lawrence Klippenstein at the age of 91 on March 18, 2022, after a brief hospital stay. He was the first salaried archivist employed by the Conference of Mennonites in Canada and served at the Mennonite Heritage Centre 1974-1997. Lawrence was a prolific writer and public history programmer who was active right up to the end. The record of the past that he saved in the archives is a gift to us now and to future generations. We will miss his wisdom as well as his warm and encouraging friendship.

The Mennonite Heritage Archives continues to resource Mennonite Church Canada and its constituency of area churches, congregations, and individuals. This winter Jack and Irene Suderman, Kathy and Eric Fast, and other volunteers worked under Conrad's supervision in getting MC Canada records ready for transfer to the archives. In March 2022, 125 boxes of materials representing MC Canada programs, staff, constituency, and partners from 2000 to 2017 was transferred to the archives. Next is the task of creating a finding aid for the collection.

At the MHA, we continue to collect materials from families and congregations, and we continue to respond to over 100 requests a month for information from our archives. Next year (2023) marks the 90th anniversary of our archival program that was begun by the Conference of Mennonites in Canada. The involvement of MC Canada remains crucial to our program, and we continue to be well-supported by Doug Klassen. The other two partners

are Canadian Mennonite University and the Centre for Transnational Mennonite Studies.

This year our building received some much-needed upgrades to the air handling system, windows, and exterior. Because of the pandemic some of our volunteer projects have been put on hold or we have found projects that could be done from home. We have benefited from a few federal funding streams the past year to hire project workers.

The pandemic has increased the need for online resourcing. Conrad has created and been part of a few online lectures. The MHA is a partner in the Anabaptist History Today (aht.libraryhost.com/s/archive/page/Welcome) web consortium collecting COVID-related stories. The Mennonite Archival Information Database (archives.mhsc.ca) continues to grow, now with 17 members. This online database began as a project by Canadian Mennonite archives to manage and provide access to historic photos but has grown to be an international database for photos and finding aids for textual documents. Conrad continues as chair of the project.

To specifically respond to the call for online access to documents the MHA is embarking on a new digital collections project. Several Mennonite Church Canada related publications will be among the first planned to be uploaded. This includes Conference of Mennonites in Canada yearbooks, *Der Bote*, *Mennonite Pioneer Mission Quarterly*, and *Intotemak*. Other community-based publications such as newspapers and are being considered for this platform which we expect to go live in the fall 2022.

MHA continues a number of important partnerships. Together with the Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies we produce the publication *Mennonite Historian*. We hear positive things from our EMC and EMMC contributors as well. One commented that it is important to share stories with other conferences as there are few places where that happens. This publication is sent to virtually all MC Canada, Mennonite Brethren, Evangelical Mennonite Conference, and Evangelical Mennonite Mission Conference congregations in Canada.

We continue our partnership with the Canadian Mennonite University Library, adding about 50 books a month to the Mennonite Historical Library. Conrad continues to provide photos and captions to the *Canadian Mennonite's* "Moment from Yesterday" feature. We also continue to be active on social media platforms such as Instagram (@m.h.archives) and Facebook ([facebook.com/MHArchives](https://www.facebook.com/MHArchives)). We continue our partnership with



CommonWord by having some of our books for sale on its website.

COVID-19 and the discussion around vaccines has been a hot topic. I have entered this discussion cautiously trying to provide information and maintain relationships. A number of our social media posts have included stories about communicable diseases and vaccines. I have been interviewed by *The Globe and Mail*, twice by the *Winnipeg Free Press*, and three times three times by CBC about different aspects of this issue including past stories where Mennonites have been vaccinated, dating back to 1809 and reasons why some Mennonite may be hesitant to get a vaccine today. I have also helped produced some videos that use humour to encourage people to seek credible advice appropriate to this health care issue.

Thank you to MC Canada for its partnership in collecting, preserving, and telling the Mennonite story. Check out our web site mharchives.ca with a special section for congregations (mharchives.ca/how-to/churches/). Send us an email (info@mharchives.ca) and get on our e-newsletter list to stay up to date with “what’s new in the world of old,” or subscribe to our quarterly magazine, *Mennonite Historian*.

**Conrad Stoesz**

President, Mennonite Historical Society of Canada

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Winnipeg, MB R3P 2N2www.mhsc.ca

Mennonite Historical Society of Canada

April 2022

When we describe a stone building, we talk about the stones or bricks but we forget what holds it all together – the mortar. At our annual meetings we plan for the reports, budgets, and discussions, but we also leave room for meals together, tours, and non-designated time – the mortar. The mortar is not some invisible layer of glue, rather a thick, visible and prominent part of the building that keeps it all together. For the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada (MHSC), the annual meetings have not only been a place to report and plan but to build community and trust. This is the second year that the MHSC has met via Zoom January 15-16, 2022. We look forward to meeting in person next January in Saskatchewan where we can have some quality “mortar” time.

We are entering a window of time where there will be several significant anniversaries. 2022 marks 100 years since the emigration of Mennonites from Canada to Mexico and Paraguay. 2023 will mark 100 years since the start of the Russlaender immigration from Russia to Canada. Looking a bit further ahead, 2024 will mark 150 years of Mennonites in Manitoba, 2025 will be the 500th anniversary of Anabaptism. These are all significant events that have shaped us, our families, communities, and country. Public programming such as commemoration is more than planning a project or event, it is a platform for engagement that can have far reaching effects.

Commemoration can make the past meaningful to people so that the unexperienced past becomes part of them. Commemoration has the potential to build support and momentum for larger projects – in fact many of our historical societies, museums, and archives are direct beneficiaries, and even born out of, commemorative endeavors. The Mennonite Historical Society of Canada (MHSC) is forging ahead with its centenary projects in 2022 and 2023.

The Society is partnering with the Mennonite Village Museum in Steinbach in the creation of a travelling exhibit exploring the migration of Mennonites to Mexico and Paraguay. To mark the centennial of the 1920s migration of Mennonites from Russia to Canada, the

Society is partnering with provincial historical societies and TourMagination. A train trek in summer 2023 from Quebec City to Vancouver with stops and commemorative events in each province is being planned.

A theme in the reports from the various members was the growing importance of online programming and resources. The pandemic has encouraged people to learn new online skills and organizations to offer online seminars, lectures, and resources. The Mennonite Archival Information Database (archives.mhsc.ca) utilized by Mennonite Church Canada’s Mennonite Heritage Archives and 16 other agencies, continues to be an important tool for archives to organize photos and archival documents and for the public to access these historical items. The Society also undertook a review of its website and fast tracked a renewed website (mhsc.ca)

The MHSC values the involvement of denominations such as MC Canada and looks forward to its continued involvement.

**Byron Rempel-Burkholder**

Chair, Mennonite Church Canada Palestine-Israel Network



Mennonite Church Canada Palestine- Israel Network (MC Canada PIN)

It is now six years since MC Canada passed its [resolution](#) on Palestine and Israel, in response to a call from Palestinian Christians. Our network's mandate—to help the church implement the resolution through prayer, education and advocacy—is as urgent and relevant as ever as Israel's military occupation and oppressive control of Palestinian lives continues to deepen.

Under the guidance of International Witness, we do our work through regional church working groups (also named PINs) in B.C., Alberta, Manitoba and Eastern Canada. (We are seeking representation in Saskatchewan.) The chairs meet quarterly for consultation, mutual encouragement and planning of common initiatives. The following are highlights of our activity since 2019, when we last reported.

Partnership with Bethlehem Bible College, West Bank.

Building on past connections, MC Canada in 2020 committed to an intentional relationship with BBC. through mutual learning exchanges and volunteer opportunities. In 2021 the PIN organized and promoted two Zoom encounters to orient MC Canada members to BBC's ministries. As COVID-19 restrictions lift, we are now working with International Witness to sponsor two tours of BBC faculty in Canada in 2022-23, on themes related to a just peace in Palestine and Israel.

Speakers' bureaus and webinars. Pre-COVID-19, our regional PIN members visited some 60 congregations to conduct workshops or preach. The MC Alberta PIN helped mount a theatre event on Palestine (also to be presented at Gathering). During the pandemic we promoted webinars by partner advocacy groups, and we helped plan and lead others. In fall of 2021, with ecumenical partners, we sponsored a two-part webinar on Christian Zionism. The MCEC PIN also hosted two online discussions of a podcast produced by one of their members. The MCBC PIN organized an online vigil for Palestinian solidarity. In March and April of 2022, four PIN members were invited to host

a six-session online Xplore course at Canadian Mennonite University on "Palestine-Israel: Is this Settler Colonialism?" featuring Palestinian, Jewish and North American speakers.

Communication tools. From the beginning, we have disseminated prayer requests and announcements through the nationwide and regional church offices. In the last three years, we have developed a presence on the MC Canada website (<https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/pin>); three regional church websites also host PIN pages. A monthly email update reaches over 250 subscribers, offering prayer concerns, news and calls to advocacy.

Advocacy. In 2019 the MC Manitoba PIN started a monthly "Write-a-letter-Wednesday" action calling politicians or corporate leaders to press for human rights and international law. This has provided themes for the PIN *Update*. PIN groups in Manitoba and MCEC have also had significant success in meeting MPs to express concerns.

Networking. As mandated by our resolution, we are working with local and national groups whose goals overlap with ours. These include Christian, Jewish, Muslim and secular groups, as well as local Palestinian associations. We collaborate locally at public peace/justice rallies and educational events. We are currently involved in the ecumenical Canada Stand Up for the Rights of Palestinian Children campaign. These ecumenical and interfaith relationships have brought us joy, and we trust they extend the witness of our church.

Learn more. For more detail, please visit the MC Canada web page above, where you can also sign up for our monthly update. The page also includes contact information for our regional PINs—which are always looking for new participants.



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mennocreationcare.org

Mennonite Creation Care Network

Mission

We link people, resources and the Mennonite faith tradition in ways that make peace with creation.

Goals

MCCN encourages the Church to:

- Claim its 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.

Components

- **Sponsoring organizations:** Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center of Goshen College and Everence are the primary funding sources. Mennonite Central Committee Canada also provides assistance.
- **Advisory Council:** Has consisted of a sponsor representative from both Merry Lea and Everence; four members from Mennonite Church USA and two members from Mennonite Church Canada. Several long-term members have anchored this group.
- **Communications:** A monthly newsletter shares information and inspiration with 1400+ members. The website includes additional resources and curriculum.
- **Monthly Zoom Conversations** for network members
- **Two small grants programs:** Pam De Young Net Zero Energy Fund for solar panels and car charging stations; Green Mustard Seed Fund for partner congregations, environmental justice.
- **Partner Congregations:** Nurture and customer service for congregational leaders. Yearly shared practices encourage spread of worthwhile ideas.

Current Projects

- **Solar booklet:** Creating a resource for congregations interested in going solar.
- **Church Land Theology Project:** Interviewing congregations with experience caring for land and sharing findings.

Education

Mennonite Church Canada
Gathering 2022
Report Book



1.800.964.2627
ambs.ca

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

MC Canada connections

- In 2021–22, nine Canadian students were part of AMBS's 127-member graduate student body, which also included 64 U.S. students and 54 international students.
- Three Canadian students graduated in April 2022: Taryn Ferrede, Yeshiwas Muleta (MCEC) and Adela Friesen Wedler (MCA).
- Ly Vang and Nancy Brubaker (both of MCEC) were one of 18 participant/mentor pairs in the Journey program in 2021–22.
- The AMBS Board of Directors has included Bruce Baergen (MCA) (chair), David Brubacher (MCEC), Gerda Krause (MCBC), Rachel Siemens (MCM) and Terry Stefaniuk (MC Sask).
- Andy Brubacher Kaethler (MCEC) and Allan Rudy-Froese (MC Sask) are on the Teaching Faculty. Doug Amstutz is Development Associate for Canada.
- Canadian Mennonite University and AMBS collaborate to publish *Vision: A Journal for Church and Theology* twice each year.

Gifts from MC Canada members, businesses, congregations, regional churches, and foundations to the AMBS Annual Fund in 2020–21 totaled \$253,276 CAD (exchange rate as of June 30, 2021). Canadian donors can contribute directly to AMBS in Canadian dollars at ambs.ca/give. AMBS is recognized on Schedule VIII by Canada Revenue Agency; gifts are tax deductible. We value your support!

Thank you, Mennonite Church Canada!

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. Join us — whether in person or at a distance — and deepen your understanding of Scripture, faith and Anabaptist theology!

Degrees and programs

ambs.ca/degrees-and-programs

Study on campus

- Master of Divinity Campus
- Master of Arts in Christian Formation
- Master of Arts: Theology and Peace Studies
- Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies

Study at a distance

- Master of Divinity Connect
- Master of Arts: Theology and Global Anabaptism
- Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies
- Graduate Certificate in Spiritual Direction
- Journey Missional Leadership Development Program (nondegree)

Benefits for Canadians

ambs.ca/canadian-students

- 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.
- Students in a graduate program at **Conrad Grebel University College** or **Canadian Mennonite University** receive a 50% tuition discount on all for-credit classes.
- A collaborative arrangement between AMBS and Grebel 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.
- AMBS offers generous need-based financial aid, scholarships for full- and part-time students, and church matching grants to make your education affordable. Student loans administered by provincial governments are also available.
- The Mennonite Church Eastern Canada scholarship is available for Canadians who currently serve, or have a



desire to serve, Mennonite Church Canada. Students from MCEC congregations are given preference.

Lifelong learning

Grow your ministry skills and gain Anabaptist approaches to today's leadership challenges through our nondegree offerings.

ambs.ca/leadership-and-enrichment

Short-term options

- Anabaptist Short Courses: six weeks, online, discussion based
- Invite AMBS: request a speaker
- Pastors & Leaders conference
- !Explore: A Theological Program for High School Youth (summer)

Yearlong offerings

- Spiritual Direction Seminars
- Transition to Leadership program for new pastors
- Integrity Circles: reflect theologically on leadership within a group

CMU Mission

Canadian Mennonite University is an innovative Christian university, rooted in the Anabaptist faith tradition, moved and transformed by the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Through teaching, research, and service CMU inspires and equips women and men for lives of service, leadership, and reconciliation in church and society.

2021-22 Enrolment

592 FTE Main Shaftesbury campus (full-time equivalent) for Undergraduate and Graduate

673 Total students
616 Undergraduate
56 Graduate

264 FTE Menno Simons College (CMU programming in Conflict Resolution and International Development at UW)

856 Total CMU FTE

Small university Big opportunities



Why CMU?

Teaching is exceptional
Faith & community matter
Learning & career connect
Professors know you

To read CMU stories throughout the year, sign-up for our monthly **Through this Place** e-newsletter at cmu.ca/newsletter.



Greetings to Mennonite Church Canada

Here's a glimpse into 2022/23 CMU courses:

Disruptive Good News—The Church in Acts | Sheila Klassen-Wiebe | Through the lens of the book of Acts, this course will examine how the Good News of Jesus disrupts people's lives, social conventions, religious beliefs, and systems of power.

From Creation to New Creation: The Biblical Story of Healing and Hope | Dan Epp-Thiessen | This course will examine various texts from the Hebrew prophets, Daniel, the Gospels, the letters of Paul, and the book of Revelation to discern their vision of God's good future.

Ethical Living in a Technological Society | Ruth Rempel | This course will examine the implications of living in a technological society for our understandings of self, society, and Christian faith.

Christianity and the Mass Media | David Balzer | Students will investigate the relationship between Christian faith and the mass media, exploring two key questions: how do the faith convictions of the producer, host, or interviewer shape creative mass media production and how has mainstream media reported and portrayed Christian faith?

Cells and Energy | John Brubacher | Through course and lab work students will focus on the structure and work of cells as the fundamental units of life. Topics include membranes, the structure and function of organelles including the cytoskeleton, the cell cycle, enzymes, and the central metabolic pathways common to most living organisms.

Christianity and the Marketplace | Craig Martin | Through case studies of common business dilemmas students will begin to develop the wisdom to address these dilemmas in ways that account for both faith and business considerations.

Thank you for partnering with CMU.

"Here at CMU, students aren't only challenged to write papers and excel during exams, we are also challenged to build a repertoire of perspectives. Perspectives that create nuanced views of everyday issues. At CMU we learn to build bridges, between philosophy and biology and faith, between poetry and song and worship, between gender and biology and ethics. It's a place to learn to think creatively, and integrate your study into everyday life."

- Bryn Friesen Epp, CMU Student

"I found myself going home excited about what I'm learning because I saw my learning actually affecting not just my work, but my life in general—my conversations, the way I go about my day. My GSTM experience was transforming me into a more faithful leader. I found inspiration in my professors as people who are living out what they say they believe. This gives me such hope and encouragement."

- Andrea De Avila, GSTM graduate



Columbia Bible College

2021-2022 highlights

Applied Leadership Program additions

We are excited to announce new program elements within the Applied Leadership degree. Built upon a strong biblical foundation, the Applied Leadership program focuses on equipping young men and women to make an impact in the world. The additions to this program will provide a degree option for those interested in pursuing leadership based learning within specific concentrations. These concentrations include options of Social Entrepreneurship, Leader Development, or Intercultural Engagement.

This revised degree offers a unique combination of courses that give students excellent Christian leadership training that is paired with practical business, management and intercultural skills.

"The Applied Leadership degree prepares you to engage your calling and passions. The focus of these concentrations is to grow you as a person - growing in self-awareness, character development, and relational ability."
- Program Co-Director, Matt Kaminski

Mennonite Disaster Services

With the B.C. floods of November 2021, families, homes and businesses were left with the overwhelming task for cleaning up the mud and mess that was left behind. In late February, nine CBC students and staff drove up to Princeton, B.C., to assist in the restoration process. They were able to connect and encourage families who have been deeply impacted by the floods. Joah, a first-year General Studies student shared this about her experience in Princeton, "The heaviness of Princeton was very evident in everyone we met, but I also experienced this excitement to be able to



Joah, First-year general studies student

show God's love and character in such a physical way to people who desperately need it. A few days after we returned I received an email from one of the ladies our team helped. I had never met her, but she expressed so much gratitude. This whole experience has been eye opening to me. Not just about what the extent of flooding can look like, but also how God can work through a random group of people and change lives." We are so grateful for the generous spirit of our students and staff in such difficult times.

CBC's Mission

Columbia Bible College seeks to equip people for a life of discipleship, ministry, and leadership in service to the church and community.

CBC's New Slogan:

"Be known. Make a difference."

BE KNOWN. Columbia is a community that welcomes in those trying to figure out their place in the world. Many young adults are wrestling with questions of identity, belonging and purpose. We want every student to come to know who they are in Christ Jesus. We want every student to experience a place where they are seen and where they know they belong.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE. Everyone wants their life to count. For that to happen, they need to develop the relational and leadership skills that will prepare them for whatever God has for them. Most importantly, they need to have a

2021-22 Enrollment stats

360 Students

194 Residents
149 Undergraduate
17 Offsite

columbiabc.edu



Conrad Grebel University College

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.”

We have recently launched a 3-year Strategic Plan that clarifies our focus on students and our pedagogy, in addition to our institutional resilience and environmental stewardship. We also look to strengthen our partnerships, including those with the Mennonite Church.

We continue to build on our connections with the Mennonite Church and church-related organizations in Canada and around the world. For example, Professor Derek Suderman, who teaches Old Testament in our Theological Studies program, is teaching Old Testament courses to Mennonite church leaders in Thailand this summer, coordinated by Jeanette Hanson from Mennonite Church Canada Witness.

Professor Carol Penner chairs our Master of Theological Studies program and she leads an active applied studies stream that includes pastoral training. Students who study full time in the MTS program enjoy the benefit of a full-time tuition scholarship. 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 specializations in Church Worship and Music, Peace and Music, and Music in a Global Context. PACS offers a popular undergraduate major and minor program, 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.

Because the University of Waterloo has a large co-operative education program, there are extensive course offerings and programs in the spring term (May to August). The Grebel residence and apartments offer 172 students in a variety of UWaterloo programs a home base on the larger campus. Colin Funk, a member of Nutana Park Mennonite Church in Saskatoon, is in the Urban Planning program at Waterloo and is currently on a study term.

“I really enjoy the leadership opportunities at Grebel in the spring term. There are several music ensembles which

run over the summer and I am involved in the Chapel Team. I am humbled to be the Student Council President this term and I value the leadership roles I hold at Grebel because it allows me to give back to this community.”



Colin Funk, Nutana Park Mennonite Church

last year. We have prepared a [video](#) that illustrates how many of Grebel’s programs directly impact the life of the Mennonite church.

I wish everyone at Gathering 2022 an enjoyable and meaningful church gathering.

With gratitude,

Marcus Shantz
President
Conrad Grebel University College
at the University of Waterloo
uwaterloo.ca/grebel



Partners

Mennonite Church Canada
Gathering 2022
Report Book



Community Peacemaker Teams

In 2021, CPT celebrated 35 years of building partnerships to transform violence and oppression! We also recently changed our name to Community Peacemaker Teams. While our mission remains the same, our new name better reflects the diversity of our growing membership. Everyone at CPT is encouraged to bring their expression of spirituality or faith to our work, which remains grounded in our shared values of equality, dignity, justice, and peace.

CPT is currently comprised of 24 full-time staff and 133 reservists working in six different contexts: Palestine, Colombia, Iraqi Kurdistan, Greece, Turtle Island, and the US/Mexico Borderlands.

CPT-Palestine continues to support Palestinian-led, nonviolent, grassroots resistance against the Israeli Occupation. The team documents collective memory and oral history, collaborates with Palestinians of different backgrounds, monitors Israeli checkpoints, and uses photography to amplify children and teens' experiences of the occupation.

CPT-Colombia is accompanying small farming and mining communities caught in the crossfire of decades of war and, more recently, hyper-development. Since Colombia's Peace Accord in 2016, over 1,200 social leaders have been assassinated. CPT partners with local human rights organizations to draw attention to the violence experienced by communities and organizations.

CPT-Iraqi-Kurdistan partners with farming communities that peacefully resist displacement and destruction caused by Turkish cross-border military operations. The team also accompanies human rights defenders, including activists and journalists who have been unjustly imprisoned for speaking out against government corruption.

CPT's Aegean Migrant Solidarity team (AMS) is partnering with local and international organizations committed to solidarity with refugees who are defending their human rights. Based in Lesbos, Greece, CPT monitors the trials of migrants seeking asylum and documents racist violence in the region.

The CPT Turtle Island Solidarity Network (TISN) is a network of CPT reservists engaged in Indigenous solidarity and decolonization. In 2021, TISN partnered with 1492 Land Back Lane, Land Defenders in Wet'suwet'en and Line 3, and the Apache in Oak Flat. TISN works in coalition with different grassroots groups to organize events and nonviolent direct actions in pursuit of Indigenous sovereignty.

CPT reservists are also present along the US/Mexico Borderlands, where the US border has been closed to asylum seekers, foreign citizens, and undocumented people. CPT accompanies migrants between resource centres, tents, shelters, and points of entry and works with partner organizations that provide migrants with food, clothing, information, and first aid.

CPT is grateful for the sponsorship of denominational bodies like MC Canada! We have also valued the opportunity to work in collaboration through a joint MC Canada-CPT TISN internship this past year. Thank you for your ongoing support of our work! To learn more, follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), or [Instagram](#) and sign up for our [weekly newsletter](#).

MCC Report 2022 to Mennonite Church Canada



As we reflect on the past year of ministry, MCC is grateful to walk hand-in-hand with Mennonite Church Canada to share God's love and compassion for all in the name of Christ. Despite the challenges of a global pandemic, changing weather patterns and millions of people forced to flee, our hope and faith rests solidly in Jesus. MCC is committed to "abiding in the vine" so we can continue to bear fruit. Without Christ, we can do nothing.

Thanks to your generous support, MCC was able to work with local partners to impact the lives of thousands – and to offer a Jesus-centred vision of peace and reconciliation to communities around the world.

Relief

Since the Russian military invasion of Ukraine earlier this year, MCC – alongside many church partners – has been providing emergency assistance to the most vulnerable. This support includes food, cash, medicine, hygiene supplies and temporary housing for those who are displaced. We are also responding to the ongoing conflict in Ethiopia. Our partners report that hospitals, schools, herds of livestock and homes have been destroyed. MCC is providing essential supplies, such as palm mats to build shelters, nutritional support for infants and young children, blankets, sanitary pads and soap. Although this crisis has fallen out of the news cycle, MCC and our partners are committed to providing ongoing relief.

Development

Sticky stinky? Farmers in sub-Saharan Africa use a unique agricultural approach, mixing their crops with a smelly grass to drive away pests. (The grass also helps preserve moisture, helping address the effects of climate change.) The farmers then plant a sticky grass around the perimeter of their fields to trap pests escaping the smell. Fewer pests equal more nutritious food for families. And an added benefit? Since the insects are trapped before they can migrate to neighbours' fields, peace grows in the community. Another innovative approach by MCC partners!

Peace

We know that peace means many things. For Zebron Mwale in Zambia, it means forgiveness. After landing in prison for growing cannabis, Zebron joined an MCC peace club offered there. "I quickly learned about the need to break the chain of revenge," says Zebron, who offered forgiveness to the neighbour who had turned him in. Here in Canada, peace can mean new beginnings. MCC continues to support newcomers through our migration and resettlement program, including a number of Afghan refugees. We're inviting congregations to prayerfully consider sponsoring an Afghan refugee this coming year.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity! None of this could happen without your gifts of prayer, service and financial support. Thanks be to God.

In Christ's peace,

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



Twelve-year-old Temeskin Demberu lives in a camp for internally displaced people in Dabat, Ethiopia. The family fled conflict in Tigray and now receives nutritional support from an MCC partner that works in the camp. (MCC photo/Paul Mosley)



Prem Singh and Sonkunwar Paikra stand in their kitchen garden, showing off their potato crop. MCC partner Church's Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA) provides training for farmers like the Paikras. These families have improved their diets by consuming a variety of vegetables grown in their own gardens. (MCC photo/Mukul Harishchandra)

"I am the vine, and you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing."

— John 15:4-5





Mennonite Disaster Service Canada

"It was nothing short of a miracle. It never would have happened without MDS. It's just so unreal. I don't know how to thank MDS. It's amazing how people we don't know came to help us. It's God sent, that's all I know."

That's what Diane Rice of Triton, Newfoundland said after MDS Canada, together with local volunteers in that community, rebuilt her home that was destroyed by fire.

Her comment reminds me of why MDS Canada exists—volunteers who are sent by God to be the hands and feet of Jesus when people are hurting and need help.

Although 2021 was a hard year for us—the pandemic curtailed most of our responses in this country and prevented Canadians from going to the U.S. to volunteer—it couldn't stop us from doing what we could to help people impacted by disasters. Despite the pandemic, and the restrictions it imposed, we still responded to people in need.

In Ontario, we worked with MCC to promote reconciliation with Indigenous people by providing volunteers to renovate the MCC Indigenous Neighbours office in Timmins.

We also worked with MennoHomes, an organization that provides affordable housing in Kitchener, to renovate a derelict house into a home for a Syrian refugee family.

In Barry's Bay we were able to renovate a house to accommodate a family with a disabled child, creating a safe, sterile, and temperature-controlled space.

In B.C., we learned you can be off the grid but not out of God's plan when it comes to rebuilding a house. That's what happened after a fire destroyed the home of Cliff and Lydia Trudeau at Cuisson Lake. Rebuilding their house was challenging, since they live in a remote part of the province. With some creative thinking on the part of volunteers, along with energetic ingenuity and lots of prayer, the house was completed in August.

Also in B.C., volunteers responded to needs in Princeton, where about 300 families had their homes damaged or destroyed by flooding.

In Saskatchewan, we renovated the office and home of the director at the Westbank Bible Camp. Said the director

about the volunteers: "They showed up with a servant attitude and posture, always asking what they could do for us, how they could serve us," he said. "It was phenomenal. They had such servant hearts."

Also in Saskatchewan, weather was the big story this year. Drought affected farmers in the province, hitting livestock farmers the hardest. Many don't have enough hay for their animals in winter. Together with the MDS Ontario Unit, we created MDS Hay West, a way for farmers in Ontario—who enjoyed good growing weather—to send donated hay to Saskatchewan. Best of all, it was a way for farmers in Ontario to say thanks. It was nine years ago that farmers in Saskatchewan sent Hay East to them when drought was bad in that province.

In Newfoundland, MDS Canada supplied the funds and local people in Triton provided the volunteers to build a new house for Diane and Reginald Rice after fire destroyed their home.

Across Canada, we responded through the Spirit of MDS Fund. Through the fund, we provided 81 grants worth \$206,900 to churches involved in frontline service to people impacted by the pandemic.

At MDS in Canada our goal is to use our core values of faith in action and caring relationships to be a witness to God's love for the world. We invite you to consider volunteering with us and joining us in praying for God's continued blessing on our work.

Ross Penner

Director of Canadian Operations
Mennonite Disaster Service Canada



Mennonite Men

2021 has been full of exciting work and meaningful connections as the work of Mennonite Men continues to benefit our communities and congregations. Our three programs—JoinTrees, JoinMen, and JoinHands—continue to thrive as we invite men to grow, give and serve as followers of Jesus.

JoinTrees: Planting Trees to restore the earth

Planting Trees to restore the earth JoinTrees is our campaign to plant one million trees by 2030. This campaign targets climate change—an existential threat to life on our planet. By increasing tree and forest cover with this JoinTrees campaign, Planting Trees to restore the earth JoinTrees is our campaign to plant one million trees by 2030. This campaign targets climate change—an existential threat to life on our planet. By increasing tree and forest cover with this JoinTrees campaign, our goals are to help: (1) mitigate global warming, (2) serve climate justice, and (3) support diversity.

Our vision is a healthy, thriving planet where God's abundant life of shalom is enjoyed by all from generation to generation. A recent grant given to Landisville Mennonite Church in Pennsylvania contributed to the planting our goals are to help: (1) mitigate global warming, (2) serve climate justice, and (3) support diversity. Our vision is a healthy, thriving planet where God's abundant life of shalom is enjoyed by all from generation to generation. A recent grant given to Landisville Mennonite Church in Pennsylvania contributed to the planting of over 600 trees on 3.65 acres as the land is turned from farmland back to forest and meadow as part of the congregation's efforts to improve water quality, expand pollinator and wildlife habitat, and address climate change.

In 2021 we are funding the planting of 41,000 trees in Guatemala and Honduras to restore land in local watersheds and assist farmers incorporate trees into crop and animal farming systems.

These projects improve local communities, assist vulnerable populations, support biodiversity and will help mitigate the increasingly negative effects of global warming. Learn more and contribute to this program at mennonitemen.org/jointrees/.

JoinHands: Sharing resources for new church buildings

JoinHands is our program for giving and grantmaking. Through our JoinHands Mennonite Church Building Program, we provide grants to help new congregations acquire their first church building. Mennonite Men has given over 2.3 million dollars to new congregations for this purpose. We invite individuals and congregations to give to JoinHands. We especially ask churches pursuing building projects to give as a way of sharing resources and serving "fair balance" with congregations in need.

Our current project is raising \$40,000 for the Hmong Mennonite Church in Westminster, Colorado. Since 2015, members of Hmong Mennonite Church have been planning and searching for a place of their own to accommodate their growing ministry. Once funded, the grant will assist this congregation in finding space of their own to carry out their growing ministry.

Help us accomplish this fair balance. We can extend grants only as donors give to this program. For more details about this program, visit mennonitemen.org/joinhands.

JoinMen: Gathering men and promoting their growth

JoinMen provides retreats and resources from an Anabaptist perspective to promote healthy masculinity, Christian formation and community. We desire that all men find a place of belonging among men who are strong, loving and wise as we follow Jesus in building God's shalom.

Retreats provide opportunities for men to gather together and engage issues in community. More than an event, these experiences are also meant to encourage participants to be part of an ongoing men's group and growth process. A full list of treat themes we offer can be found at mennonitemen.org/joinmen.

In addition to retreats, a study guide and audio book are now available for Peaceful at Heart: Anabaptist Reflections on Healthy Masculinity. A video series based on this book will soon be released. This video series featuring interviews with each of the 19 contributors can be viewed by groups who are reading and discussing the book together. We are also anticipating the release of *Strong, Loving, and Wise: Joining Conversations for Men*. This book is a guide for men covering topics such as male

formation, personal challenges, sexual wholeness, conflict tools, and life roles, just to name a few.



To learn more about our work, download resources,
or contribute to our programs, visit mennonitemen.org.

Don Neufeld,

Mennonite Men Coordinator for Canada

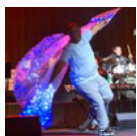
don.neufeld@outlook.com | [905-650-1577](tel:905-650-1577)

www.mennoniteusa.org

Mennonite Church USA

Ways MC USA equipped conferences, congregations and communities to #BeTransformed in 2021

More than 1,000 people participated in [MennoCon21](#), MC USA's first hybrid convention, held online and in-person in Cincinnati, Ohio, July 6-10. Revitalization was a key focus, with Executive Director Glen Guyton introducing Be Transformed as the theme for the next biennium.



[Church Vitality](#) staff coached faith formation leaders during a difficult year through cohorts, roundtable discussions and webinars. At-home worship guides for Lent and Advent resourced families, while a [Bible-based curriculum](#) about policing helped congregations discuss important social justice issues.

MC USA supported new missional churches, awarding its second round of [Thrive Church Planting Grants](#) to three congregations: Community of Hope, Summit Street Church and Wild Church.



The first "Learn, Pray, Join" initiative of 2021, in collaboration with the Mennonites Against Militarism project, focused on the "[Cost of War](#)," highlighting resistance to war as a core peace church value.

"[Learn, Pray, Join: Cost of Poverty](#)" explored the topic of poverty from theological and practical perspectives, addressing its intersectional nature and the impact of the pandemic, through prayers, blogs and resources.



In response to rising gun violence, MC USA partnered with RAWtools, an organization that teaches nonviolence and turns guns to gardening tools, which are sold to support the denomination's peace and justice work.

Twenty congregations received [Justice Fund](#) grants for their efforts to combat poverty, dismantle racism, seek immigration justice or reimagine policing. This work was supported by Allegheny Mennonite Conference, which provided a [\\$45K donation](#) and \$15K matching grant, and by giving from across the church.

Glen Guyton began his second four-year term as executive director in April 2021 and [Jon Carlson](#), pastor, Forest Hills Mennonite Church, was affirmed as moderator-elect at the Delegate Assembly in July.



MC USA's Women in Leadership ministry created "[Laboring Toward Wholeness](#)," a Bible-based curriculum for dismantling patriarchy in the church, and relaunched its Holding It(,) Together podcast.

So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

- 2 Corinthians 5:17

Our Mission

The mission of Mennonite Church USA Executive Board is to equip and empower leaders to share with others the gift of God's peace and transformative love.

Our Vision

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

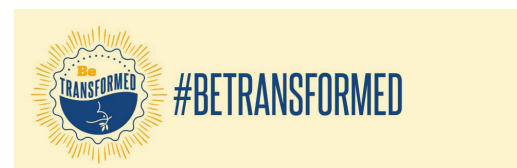
Our Renewed Commitments

- Follow Jesus
- Witness to God's peace
- Experience transformation



[Subscribe to PeaceMail](#), MC USA's weekly digital news magazine and the only source for all of the denomination's news, blogs, upcoming events and resources.

Biennial Convention



MennoCon23, MC USA's biennial convention will be held in Kansas City, Missouri, July 4-8, 2023. Save the date for this transformative experience!



Report of the Anglican-Mennonite Dialogue

2016-2022

In 2016, the Anglican Church of Canada invited Mennonite Church Canada to enter into dialogue. The intention was to explore “receptive ecumenism” in the relationships between the two churches. This meant examining what gifts each church had to offer and what gifts each church were prepared to receive.

The dialogue members consisted of five members and a staff person from Mennonite Church Canada and an equal number from the Anglican Church of Canada. In addition, since the Anglican Church is in communion with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, the dialogue included an observer from that church. The members were able to meet twice in person in 2018 and 2019, but eleven more meetings were held online due to restrictions caused by the pandemic. Our inability to meet more often in person constrained the development of close personal ties among the dialogue members and the breadth of discussion. Still, despite these setbacks, strong friendships have emerged among the group, and significant dialogue occurred.

The dialogue settled on three significant areas of discussion:

1. **Authority in the churches:** At the time of the dialogue, Mennonite Church Canada was going through a significant reorganization devolving responsibility from the national to the regional level. The Anglican Church of Canada created a new non-territorial, Indigenous Province at the same time. These structural changes within the churches highlighted the changing political organization of each church and the locus of authority. For the Mennonite Church, decision-making at the congregational and local level remains the locus of authority. While apparently egalitarian and democratic, there remain hidden loci of power regarding whose voices are heard in the decisions. For the Anglicans, the hierarchical structures of the episcopacy continue to be

challenged by the church’s synodical structures and the Indigenous decision-making models.

2. **Indigenous-Settler relations:** Both churches realized there was much to learn and share in Indigenous-settler relations. Three sessions were devoted to hearing from Indigenous interlocutors. The Anglican Church has a much longer history of colonial interaction, including running 30 percent of the residential schools in Canada. While the Mennonite Church’s interaction has been much shorter, it continues to need to challenge colonial assumptions. There is much work to be done by both churches to decolonize, and much of that work can better be done together.
3. **Baptism:** The dialogue studied and discussed several international ecumenical documents on baptism. Historically, the practice of infant and believer baptism was a core issue in the division of our churches. More recent practices in both churches have brought us closer together. Much time was spent discussing the relationship between baptism and church membership.

Our dialogue can only begin a much longer conversation between the churches. While there is no clear call of a need for organic unity between the churches, there remains much that can be done together.

Submitted by
Doug Klassen,
Executive Minister, Mennonite Church Canada

Finance

Mennonite Church Canada
Gathering 2022
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**Allan Hiebert**

Secretary/Treasurer, Mennonite Church Canada

Secretary/Treasurer Report 2022

Secretary role

The main responsibilities of the Secretary role (within the Secretary/Treasurer position) 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 a staff member (usually Susan Reynar, Executive Coordinator) recording 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) by searching for "Joint Council Minutes." As approval of the minutes for a meeting occurs at the next meeting, the approved minutes are not available until after the next meeting. The bylaws of Mennonite Church Canada, passed at Special Assembly in 2017, are also available on the CommonWord website, by searching for "bylaws."

Finance organization and personnel

Currently we are sharing the finance department roles with MC Canada, MC Eastern Canada, and MC Manitoba. Sean East, Finance Manager for MCEC, has been in the role of part-time Finance Manager for MC Canada for the past three years. MC Canada and MC Manitoba recently agreed to share bookkeeping and payroll staff. Long time payroll and benefits accounting coordinator Laura Zacharias has continued in her role, which includes processing payroll for both MC Canada and MC Manitoba. Recently Zachary Entz and Steffi Friesen began accounting and bookkeeping roles for both MC Canada and MC Manitoba.

Mennonite Church Office Building

The sharing of finance and reception personnel is facilitated by MC Canada and MC Manitoba co-locating offices in the Mennonite Church Office Building, located on the Canadian Mennonite University campus at 600 Shaftesbury Blvd in Winnipeg. This is the only large physical asset of MC Canada. In 2021 an updated lease agreement between MC

Canada and MC Manitoba was signed, and describes the allocation of spaces and rent payments.

This 30+-year-old building has required major renovations over the past three years. These include roofing, HVAC and mold remediation which have been discussed in the Capital Expenditure budgets presented at AGMs. At the time of writing, work remains to be done to repair and paint the siding on the building, and the Capital Budget for this work is discussed below.

Financial statements

With the change from accrual accounting to fund accounting (adopted at the 2019 Delegate Gathering) the format of the Financial Statements has changed. The audited financial statements for the financial year ending January 31, 2022 (FYE 2022), are included following this report and there will be a motion to approve the minutes at the Delegate Gathering. Statements for previous years are available on CommonWord.

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 and Heather Driedger. FPAC meets at least twice yearly. Since the start of the pandemic we have been meeting via Zoom.

In addition to routine duties related to meeting with our auditors and reviewing financial statements, FPAC also works on keeping MC Canada's Financial Policies up to date with MC Canada programs by bringing recommendations for changes to Joint Council.

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) who make up the Pension Advisory Committee. 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 on honorariums are also being updated. 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.

Shared Revenue Agreement

Under the new structure adopted at the Special Assembly in 2017, the bulk of MC Canada's revenue comes from contributions of the regional churches (MC British Columbia, MC Alberta, MC Saskatchewan, MC Manitoba, and MC Eastern Canada). Each year each Regional Church makes a budget commitment to the nationwide programs run by MC Canada.

An initial agreement was reached in the fall of 2021 on how the annual budget commitment of regional churches would be calculated. The initial agreement covers general donations from the member congregations of each regional church.

As part of the Shared Revenue Agreement, the Regional Churches, through MC Canada, will collaborate on developing and implementing a fundraising/donor relations strategy, including coordinated legacy giving, that benefits the whole. However, work has not yet started on this effort.

Joint Council is working on updating the Shared Revenue Agreement to include individual and designated donations (including bequests). Differences in the history and organization of each Regional Church make this work a challenge.

Proposed Fiscal-Year-End Change

Under the Shared Revenue Agreement, the budgeted contribution of each Regional Church is based on a percentage of their previous year's donations (initially only general donations from member congregations). As such, each Regional Church's contribution is not known until after their fiscal year end has passed. Most Regional Churches have a fiscal year end of December 31, with MCEC having a fiscal year end of January 31. Joint Council recommends that MC Canada change its fiscal year end to March 31, so that the bulk of revenue is more predictable before the budgeting process is started.

Operating Fund Budget, Capital Expenditure Budget and Other Restricted Fund Budgets

The budget concerning most of the day-to-day work of MC Canada is the **Operating Fund Budget**. This budget is developed by MC Canada staff, based on the programs and priorities 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).

Operating Fund Budget 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.

The largest revenue stream is from the Regional Church Contributions. Under the Shared Revenue Agreement, adopted in the fall of 2021, each Regional Church makes a commitment based on a percentage of last-fiscal-year's donations from member congregations.

A second revenue stream is the Witness Relational Funding, which covers a portion of the costs of MC Canada's witness workers and programs. Overall, most of our nine international witness projects achieved their target of 50% or better relational funding last year.

Budgeted expenses are grouped into two major categories: Partner Ministries (budgeted amounts sent to other partner charities) 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 work undertaken in the operating fund budget.

In addition to the Operating Fund 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. Examples of these organizations are AMBS and Meserete Kristos Seminary. Since the amount sent depends entirely on the amount of the designated donations, these amounts are not included in the MC Canada budget.

In addition to the **Operating Fund Budget**, we are also presenting budgets which draw funds from one of MC Canada's Restricted Funds. This year, we have budgets from the **Capital Reserve Fund** for repairs to the Mennonite Church Office Building in Winnipeg, the **Formation Bequest Fund** for the Young Leaders Experience event held in conjunction with this Gathering and the **Missional Initiatives Fund** to fund a two-year trial of a nationwide



Creation Care ministry.

One other restricted fund is the **Company of 1000 Fund**. This fund is used to cover the expenditures of MC Canada's program to issue grants and forgivable loans to those studying to become pastors, and to current pastors who are undertaking continuing education. These expenditures are done as needed, following MC Canada's Financial Policies, but without a formal budget.

Operating Fund Budget

The Operating Fund Budget included in this Gathering Report Book has been reviewed and approved by Joint Council, and is recommended for adoption at the Gathering. Joint Council's approval indicates that the budget reflects the priorities of the Regional Churches for nationwide work, given realistic revenue constraints.

Below are some key items for you to be aware of as you study the draft budget.

1. This is a 14-month budget (Year-end March 31, 2023)
2. Over the last number of months, we have had discussions about the importance of addressing significant needs we have in the area of Leadership/Formation. This draft budget attempts to move us in the direction of meeting those needs.
3. Introducing a .5FTE Associate Exec Minister staff position that could begin in September. The cost of this appears in the Leadership Formation section of the Operating Fund Budget.
 - a) Young Leaders Experience (YLE) – a separate budget has been developed that has MC Canada absorbing most of the cost from the Formation Bequest Fund
 - b) Work is planned on an updated *Minister's Manual*. The costs of this would be drawn from Formation Bequest (restricted fund). In the fund accounting method used, this does not show up directly in the Operating Fund Budget.
4. Back in September the Regional Church Executive Ministers discussed a significant shift in focus for Indigenous/Settler Relations. Each Regional Church indicated what they wanted from ISR in/for their regions. Primary areas of need were resourcing, educating, and coordinating regional work, with only a portion of the work being dedicated to addressing nationwide concerns and cooperating with other ecumenical groups. Reducing the scope of the ISR position to a .5FTE, allowed adequate funds for the .5FTE Associate Executive Minister.
 - a) MC Canada has a personnel policy which indicates options when a staff position is drastically changed.
5. A new Climate Action position (.5FTE) is being developed, using the Missional Initiative Reserve fund for the first two years. With fund accounting, this does not appear in the Operating Budget. Joint Council reviewed the priorities for the position and our Executive Minister is working on finalizing the job description.
6. You will notice a significant decrease in International Witness funding and revenue for the China ministry since the Veith's have ended their term of service and are home.
7. Intercultural Church Steering Committee/Antiracism training. The Operating Fund Budget includes \$5000 under Program Expenses in the Executive Office budget for our collective work on Intercultural Church and Antiracism. This amount could cover some training. Joint Council has started on some education in this area, but has not yet addressed anything structurally.
8. The Operating Fund Budget includes an amount within the Leadership Formation budget to help with costs related to ministerial misconduct.



Shared Revenue Agreement

October 3, 2021 PAGE 1/5

Shared Revenue Agreement

Mennonite Church Canada is a covenanted partnership between Mennonite Church British Columbia, Mennonite Church Alberta, Mennonite Church Saskatchewan, Mennonite Church Manitoba, Mennonite Church Eastern Canada. As per the MC Canada Covenant and Operating Agreement, the Regional Churches commit to the following shared revenue agreement:

PART A: Congregational Giving

GENERAL:

1. This agreement will be reviewed annually by the Executive Staff Group (ESG), and at least every three years by Joint Council, and altered, if necessary, to reflect the ministry needs in the Regional Churches and the shared nationwide ministry priorities. Any proposed changes must be approved by Joint Council. The review of this agreement by Joint Council will be incorporated into the review of the covenanted partnership, that is scheduled to occur every three years.
2. Regional Churches will not charge administration fees on relational or other funding designated for nationwide ministries.
3. During the year, the ESG will monitor how budgeted revenue is tracking in the Regions and at MC Canada. It will also monitor how individual designated donations are impacting Regional Church and MC Canada budgets. ESG will report any concerns to FPAC and Joint Council.
4. Joint Council may designate amounts from the General Reserve Fund held by MC Canada to assist Regional Churches facing significant financial strains.
5. All communication to congregations and individual donors will encourage sending of donations to the Regional Churches, even when donations are designated to work of the nationwide church.
6. The Regional Churches, through MC Canada, will collaborate on developing and implementing a fundraising/donor relations strategy, including coordinated legacy giving, that benefits the whole, by December 2021.

BUDGET COMMITMENT TO MC CANADA:

**Shared Revenue Agreement**

October 3, 2021 PAGE 2/5

7. The Regional Churches agree that they will each make an annual Budget Commitment to the nationwide ministries of Mennonite Church Canada. The amount of the annual commitment will be based on a percentage of the following revenue streams (Shared Revenue) from the prior year:
 - a. General or Undesignated Congregational giving received by the Regional Church.
8. For clarity, designated donations towards the following will not be included in the Shared Revenue defined above:
 - a. Regional Church Camps
 - b. Donations from governments and other non-constituency organizations that are directed to specific programs of the Regional Church.
9. Budget Commitments to Mennonite Church Canada, from each Regional Church, are calculated as a percentages of the Regional Church's prior year's Shared Revenue. These initial percentages account for the differences in scale and historical giving among Regional Churches.
 - a. MCBC—20%
 - b. MCA—20%
 - c. MC Sask—25%
 - d. MCM—30%
 - e. MCEC—30%
10. For clarity, amounts received at MC Canada, either from a Regional Church or directly from a congregation or an individual, designated to the following, will not be considered part of either the Regional Church's Shared Revenue or Budget Commitment:
 - a. Witness Relational Funding
 - b. MC Canada Partnership Projects and Related Organizations
 - c. Company of 1000 Campaign
 - d. Special appeals at the Regional & nation-wide level (e.g. MWC matching grant,) as determined by Joint Council.

DESIGNATED GIVING TO MC CANADA BUDGETED PROGRAMS:

11. Designated donations from congregations designated towards Budgeted Program Funding programs of MC Canada, or MC Canada in general, received either at the Regional Church or MC Canada, will go towards fulfilling that Regional Church's Budget Commitment to MC Canada.
12. Should designated giving towards a program exceed the budgeted amount, it will go towards the rest of the budget. See the Appendix 2 below for a discussion of this policy, and a possible wording to be included in all donation materials. It is also agreed that, should this

**Shared Revenue Agreement**

October 3, 2021 PAGE 3/5

situation occur, that there will be a discussion with the donor involved as to where the excess funds will be directed. Details of this may be revisited as part of the fundraising/donor relations strategy to be developed (clause (6) above).

DONATIONS NOT ATTRIBUTABLE TO REGIONAL CHURCH:

13. Donations received directly by MC Canada from individuals or corporations, where the Regional Church of the individual or corporation cannot be readily identified, will be reported as a separate revenue stream of MC Canada. A confidential detailed report of these donations will be made available to ESG or Joint Council upon request.

PART B: AGREED WORK TOWARD AN EXPANDED AGREEMENT:

14. Each Regional Church will share a document with Joint Council, as soon as possible but no later than September 13, 2021, that describes how the Regional Church would like to handle the following during MC Canada's FYE 2023.
 - a. Undesignated donations from individuals to the Regional Church.
 - b. Designated donations from individuals to a Budgeted Program of the Regional Church, other than a church camp program.
 - c. Designated donations from individuals to the Regional Church where the designation is to a program included in MC Canada's Budgeted Program Funding.
 - d. Undesignated individual donations sent directly to MC Canada.
 - e. Designated individual donations sent directly to MC Canada, where the designation is to a budgeted program of MC Canada.
 - f. Bequests made to MC Canada
 - g. Bequests made to the Regional Church
15. Joint Council agrees to continue to work at how to incorporate these differences on individual and designated donations into future versions of this agreement.

APPENDIX 1 - DEFINITIONS

Regional Church (RC): Currently there are five Regional Churches that covenant together to form Mennonite Church Canada (MC Canada). The five Regional Churches are Mennonite Church Alberta (MCA), Mennonite Church British Columbia (MCBC), Mennonite Church Saskatchewan (MCSask), Mennonite Church Manitoba (MCM), and Mennonite Church Eastern Canada (MCEC).

Joint Council (JC): The governing board of MC Canada consisting of the Moderator and one additional representative from each of the RC's plus three elected positions (Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Secretary/Treasurer).

**Shared Revenue Agreement**

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Executive Staff Group (ESG): A committee of the Executive Ministers of each of the RCs plus the Executive Minister of MC Canada serving as chair. This committee reports to the JC.

Financial Policies and Audit Committee (FPAC): This committee is defined in the MC Canada bylaws and consists of the Secretary/Treasurer of JC, plus two members appointed by JC. It is tasked with overseeing the MC Canada audit process, reviewing the benefits plan and pension plan offered by MC Canada, and making recommendations to JC on Financial Policies and fund transfers.

Witness Relational Funding (WRF): Refers to all giving designated to a specific International Witness worker or program. Some of the supported programs do not have a MC Canada Witness Worker but are considered MC Canada Witness programs. The list of current Witness programs will be given on the Direct Donations Report, sent monthly from MC Canada to the RCs. It is expected that the WRFs generate a minimum 50% of a Witness project's net expenses.

Partner Programs and Related Organizations (PPRO): MC Canada receives money for a number of partner programs and related organizations with which we have agency agreements which satisfy CRA charity receipting requirements. The current list of PPRO for which MC Canada can accept donations are included in MC Canada's financial reports, sent monthly from MC Canada to the Regional Churches.

The amounts given to these programs and organization is not budgeted by MC Canada. Rather the amounts given are determined by designated donations. These designated donations to PPRO are NOT considered as part of the RCs budgeted contribution to MC Canada.

Budgeted Program Funding (BPF): MC Canada produces an annual budget, approved by JC, listing expected program revenue and expenses in a number of categories: "Executive Office", "International Witness", "Leadership Development", "Anabaptist Resources", "Indigenous/Settler Relations", "Support Services" and "Communications". The budgeted revenue for International Witness is divided into an amount from general contributions and an expected amount from WRF. While the bulk of the revenue to support the programs in this budget comes from contributions from the RCs, RC constituents may send general or designated donations directly to MC Canada.

Witness Support Network (WSN): An informal or formal support group that assists a particular international Witness program/worker with constituency communication, prayer support and relational fundraising. Each program/worker should have a WSN.

Company of 1000 Campaign: An unbudgeted program of MC Canada that solicits donations to a fund that supports pastoral training through grants and forgivable loans.

Shared Revenue: The sum of one or more income streams that is used to calculate the Budget Commitment of a Regional Church.

**Shared Revenue Agreement**

October 3, 2021 PAGE 5/5

Budget Commitment: The budgeted amount that a Regional Church commits to contributing to the nation-wide ministries on an annual basis. The amount for the next MC Canada fiscal year will be communicated to MC Canada by or before March.

APPENDIX 2 - Policy on Designed Donations Greater than Budgeted or Actual Expenditures

The Canadian Council of Christian Charities states the following:

Every charity should have a donor restricted gift policy and make donors aware of the policy whenever soliciting or accepting restricted funds. The policy should state that the funds are being accepted on the condition that they will be used for the specified purpose or project, unless that purpose or project has been completed, or for some reason cannot be completed, in which case the board may decide that the funds are to be used for another charitable activity. Without the donor agreeing to the condition at the time the gift is made, the charity may not be able to use the funds for a different purpose or project. In addition, once the gift has been made, the donor has no further right to, nor authority over, the funds. Once a policy is adopted, fundraising staff need to ensure it is clearly communicated and printed on all materials provided to prospective donors. It also must not be abused or taken advantage of by the charity to redirect monies/gifts unless absolutely necessary.

Sample Donor Restricted Gift Policy:

All funds will be used for [board/charity] approved programs and projects. Each contribution directed toward an approved program or project will be used as restricted with the understanding that when the need for the program or project has been met, or cannot be completed for any reason as determined by the [board/charity], the remaining restricted contributions will be used where most needed.



Audited Financial Statements

January 31st, 2022 PRE-MATTER

Financial Statements of

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Year ended January 31, 2022



Audited Financial Statements
 January 31st, 2022 PRE-MATTER

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Audited Financial Statements
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**Audited Financial Statements**

January 31st, 2022 INTRO 1/3



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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, 2022, the statements of operations and changes in fund balances and 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, 2022, 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.

**Audited Financial Statements**

January 31st, 2022 INTRO 2/3

***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 represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.



Audited Financial Statements
January 31st, 2022 INTO 3/3



- 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.

KPMG LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants

Winnipeg, Canada

June 8, 2022



MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Statement of Financial Position

January 31, 2022, with comparative information for 2021

	General Fund				2022	2021
	Unrestricted	Internally restricted	Restricted Fund	Endowment Fund	Total	Total
Assets						
Current assets:						
Cash	\$ 518,259	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 518,259	\$ 506,132
Accounts receivable	38,447	-	-	-	38,447	85,862
Prepaid expenses	99,656	-	-	-	99,656	36,455
Due from other funds	186,932	554,705	25,827	9	767,473	856,511
	843,294	554,705	25,827	9	1,423,835	1,484,960
Investments (note 3)	55,101	1,014,982	1,840,829	120,689	3,031,601	3,042,017
Investment in joint venture	47,435	-	-	-	47,435	47,435
Capital assets (note 4)	-	-	185,315	-	185,315	199,409
	\$ 945,830	\$ 1,569,687	\$ 2,051,971	\$ 120,698	\$ 4,688,186	\$ 4,773,821

Liabilities and Fund Balances

Current liabilities:						
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 149,146	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 149,146	\$ 108,554
Deferred contributions (note 5)	285,818	-	-	-	285,818	218,969
Due to other funds	458,388	-	309,085	-	767,473	856,511
	893,352	-	309,085	-	1,202,437	1,184,034
Other loans payable	8,825	-	-	-	8,825	10,962
Fund balances:						
Unrestricted	43,653	-	-	-	43,653	144,357
Internally restricted	-	1,569,687	-	-	1,569,687	1,516,723
Externally restricted	-	-	1,742,886	-	1,742,886	1,797,047
Endowment (note 7)	-	-	-	120,698	120,698	120,698
	43,653	1,569,687	1,742,886	120,698	3,476,924	3,578,825
	\$ 945,830	\$ 1,569,687	\$ 2,051,971	\$ 120,698	\$ 4,688,186	\$ 4,773,821

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

On behalf of the Board:

 Director
 Director



MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balances

Year ended January 31, 2022, with comparative information for 2021

	General Fund	Restricted Fund	Endowment Fund	2022	2021
Revenue:					
Donations, bequests and other revenue	\$ 2,282,759	\$ 48,996	\$ -	\$ 2,331,755	\$ 2,764,101
Investment income	29,779	88,176	-	117,955	55,602
Other income	-	-	-	-	33,160
	<u>2,312,538</u>	<u>137,172</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,449,710</u>	<u>2,852,863</u>
Expenses:					
MC Canada operations (schedule)	2,032,322	-	-	2,032,322	2,010,934
Partner ministries (note 10)	324,406	-	-	324,406	404,164
Designated funds:					
Disbursements	48,498	-	-	48,498	209,455
Grants	68,893	63,398	-	132,291	60,986
Amortization	-	14,094	-	14,094	27,280
	<u>2,474,119</u>	<u>77,492</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,551,611</u>	<u>2,712,819</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	(161,581)	59,680	-	(101,901)	140,044
Fund balance, beginning of year	1,661,080	1,797,047	120,698	3,578,825	3,438,781
Inter-fund transfers (note 6)	113,841	(113,841)	-	-	-
Balance, end of year	\$ 1,613,340	\$ 1,742,886	\$ 120,698	\$ 3,476,924	\$ 3,578,825

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

General Fund - Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balance

Year ended January 31, 2022, with comparative information for 2021

	Internally restricted							2022	2021
	Unrestricted	ISR Internally Restricted Fund	General Bequest Fund	General Reserve Fund	Missional Initiatives Fund	Capital Reserve Fund	Other Internally Restricted Funds	Total	Total
Revenue									
Donations, bequests and other revenue	\$ 2,211,025	\$ -	\$ 50,569	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 21,165	\$ -	\$ 2,282,759	\$ 2,710,850
Investment income	1,657	318	17,259	1,807	5,606	3,132	-	29,779	26,569
Other income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33,160
	2,212,682	318	67,828	1,807	5,606	24,297	-	2,312,538	2,770,579
Expenses:									
MC Canada operations (schedule)	2,032,322	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,032,322	2,010,934
Partner ministries (note 10)	324,406	-	-	-	-	-	-	324,406	404,164
Designated funds:									
Disbursements	-	-	-	-	-	48,498	-	48,498	209,455
Grants	-	-	-	68,173	720	-	-	68,893	25,616
	2,356,728	-	-	68,173	720	48,498	-	2,474,119	2,650,169
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(144,046)	318	67,828	(66,366)	4,886	(24,201)	-	(161,581)	120,410
Fund balance, beginning of year	144,357	34,686	567,005	362,516	420,220	119,202	13,094	1,661,080	1,240,896
Inter-fund transfers (note 6)	113,841	-	-	-	-	-	-	113,841	327,054
Inter-fund transfers (note 6)	(70,499)	(8,500)	(85,359)	76,185	-	88,173	-	-	(27,280)
Fund balance, end of year	\$ 43,653	\$ 26,504	\$ 549,474	\$ 372,335	\$ 425,106	\$ 183,174	\$ 13,094	\$ 1,613,340	\$ 1,661,080

See accompanying notes to financial statements.



Audited Financial Statements
January 31st, 2022 PAGE 5/16

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Restricted Funds - Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balance

Year ended January 31, 2022, with comparative information for 2021

							2022	2021
	Witness Bequest Fund	Formation Bequest Fund	Church Building Fund	Company of 1000 Fund	Capital Fund	Endowment Fund	Total	Total
Revenue:								
Donations, bequest and other revenue	\$ 28,890	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,106	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 48,996	\$ 53,251
Investment income	65,048	6,606	12,412	4,110	-	-	88,176	29,033
	93,938	6,606	12,412	24,216	-	-	137,172	82,284
Expenses:								
Designated funds:								
Grants	43,390	-	-	20,008	-	-	63,398	35,370
Amortization	-	-	-	-	14,094	-	14,094	27,280
	43,390	-	-	20,008	14,094	-	77,492	62,650
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	50,548	6,606	12,412	4,208	(14,094)	-	59,680	19,634
Fund balance, beginning of year	1,131,690	144,114	231,637	286,460	3,146	120,698	1,917,745	2,197,885
Inter-fund transfers (note 6)	(113,520)	(14,415)	-	-	14,094	-	(113,841)	(299,774)
Fund balance, end of year	\$ 1,068,718	\$ 136,305	\$ 244,049	\$ 290,668	\$ 3,146	\$ 120,698	\$ 1,863,584	\$ 1,917,745

See accompanying notes to financial statements.



MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended January 31, 2022, with comparative information for 2021

	2022	2021
Cash provided by:		
Operations:		
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	\$ (101,901)	\$ 140,044
Items not involving cash:		
Amortization of capital assets	14,094	27,280
Change in non-cash operating working capital:		
Accounts receivable	47,415	20,801
Prepaid expenses	(63,201)	4,266
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	40,592	(64,055)
Change in deferred contributions relating to General Fund	66,849	16,391
	<u>3,848</u>	<u>144,727</u>
Financing:		
Decrease in other loans payable	(2,137)	-
Investing:		
Decrease (increase) in investments, net	10,416	(751,138)
Increase (decrease) in cash	12,127	(606,411)
Cash, beginning of year	506,132	1,112,543
Cash, end of year	<u>\$ 518,259</u>	<u>\$ 506,132</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.



MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended January 31, 2022

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:

MC Canada follows the restricted fund method of accounting for contributions.

The General Fund consists of assets, liabilities, revenue and expenditures related to MC Canada's program delivery and administrative activities. The General Fund also consists of funds internally restricted by the Joint Council. These internally restricted amounts are not available for any other purposes without the approval of the respective Joint Council.

The Restricted Funds, excluding the Capital Fund and Endowment Fund, include those assets, liabilities, revenue and expenditures which have been restricted as to the use of either capital and/or interest therefrom by the donor to support a particular ministry of MC Canada. The Capital Fund includes assets, liabilities, revenue and expenditures related to MC Canada's capital assets. The Endowment Fund consists of assets, liabilities and revenue related to contributions designated by donors to remain in perpetuity.



MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2022

2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

The investment income earned by these funds is either restricted by the donor for specific use, or for the general use of MC Canada.

(b) Revenue recognition:

Restricted contributions related to general operations are recognized as revenue of the General Fund, depending on the nature of the contribution, in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. All other restricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the appropriate restricted fund in the year received or receivable if the amount can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the General Fund in the year received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Endowment contributions are recognized as revenue when received in the Endowment Fund. Investment income earned on endowment contributions is recognized as revenue of the General Fund.

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 unspent restricted contributions is recognized as revenue in the Restricted Funds.

Sales, services and fees are recognized as revenue when earned.

(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.



MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2022

2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

(e) Employee future benefits:

MC Canada has a defined contribution plan providing pension and post-employment benefits for its salaried employees. The cost of the defined contribution plan is recognized based on contributions required to be made during each period. During the year ended January 31, 2022, MC Canada made employer contributions for its employees to the plan in the amount of \$41,279 (2021 - \$36,499).

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 year end date and non-monetary items are translated at rates of exchange in effect when the assets were acquired or obligations incurred. Revenues and expenses are translated at rates in effect at the time of the transactions. Foreign exchange gains and losses are included in income.

(g) Financial instruments:

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

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.



MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2022

2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

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

(h) Use of estimates:

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

3. Investments:

	2022	2021
Abundance Canada	\$ 2,985,325	\$ 2,992,792
Industrial Alliance Financial Group - Mutual Funds	46,276	49,225
	<u>\$ 3,031,601</u>	<u>\$ 3,042,017</u>

The investments held at Abundance 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.



MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2022

4. Capital assets:

			2022	2021
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net book value	Net book value
Buildings:				
Conference administration	\$ 829,070	\$ 799,755	\$ 29,315	\$ 31,409
Leasehold improvements	240,000	84,000	156,000	168,000
	1,069,070	883,755	185,315	199,409
Vehicles, equipment and furnishings	660,124	660,124	-	-
	\$ 1,729,194	\$ 1,543,879	\$ 185,315	\$ 199,409

5. 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, 2022 and 2021, no such income was earned based on the policy.

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

	January 31, 2021	Received and not disbursed	Recognized as revenue	January 31, 2022
MC Canada programs:				
Christian Witness: Myanmar	\$ -	\$ 6,713	\$ -	\$ 6,713
Partner programs & related organizations:				
Partner Projects	18,741	-	-	18,741
North American Vietnamese Mennonite	16,059	-	8	16,051
IM short-term assignments	25,187	2,917	-	28,104
Bethlehem Bible College	-	840	-	840
African Inter-Mennonite Mission – Burkina Faso	-	12,325	-	12,325
Mennonite Men – Mennonite Church USA	-	2,309	-	2,309
Meseretes Kristus College	132,963	57,132	132,963	57,132
Learning tour	20,005	-	-	20,005
Mennonite Mission Network	148	16,319	148	16,319
Menno Media	5,080	105,334	5,080	105,334
Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary	786	1,945	786	1,945
	218,969	199,121	138,985	279,105
	\$ 218,969	\$ 205,834	\$ 138,985	\$ 285,818

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2022

6. Inter-fund transfers:

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

- (i) \$93,858 (2021 - \$10,000) from the General Fund's internally restricted funds to the General Fund's unrestricted funds to cover program expenses for the year.
- (ii) \$20,000 (2021 - \$20,000) from the General Funds' unrestricted funds to the General Fund's internally restricted funds to cover future program expenses.
- (iii) \$144,357 (2021 - nil) from the General Fund's unrestricted funds to the General Fund's internally restricted funds to cover future program expenses. This transfer represents the allocation of the prior year-end General Fund unrestricted balance.
- (iv) \$127,935 (2021 - \$125,437) from the Restricted Funds' fund balances to the General Fund's unrestricted funds to cover restricted program expenses for the year.
- (v) \$14,094 (2021 - \$27,280) from the General Fund's unrestricted funds to the Capital Fund's restricted funds to fund previous years capital asset additions.
- (vi) Nil (2021 - \$201,617) from the Restricted Funds' fund balances to the General Funds' internally restricted funds. The transfer in fiscal 2021 represented funds originally externally restricted by the donor however the purpose was no longer applicable to MC Canada. In accordance with the terms of the agreement, the Joint Council could redirect the funds if this occurred. The Joint Council had approved the use of the funds to assist with future repairs of the building.

7. Endowment fund:

Contributions held for perpetuity within the Endowment Fund are as follows:

	2022	2021
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>
Joint Council Endowment:		
Conference administration building	100,000	100,000
	<u>\$ 120,698</u>	<u>\$ 120,698</u>



MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2022

7. Endowment fund (continued):

The investment income earned by these funds is either restricted by the donor for specific use, or for the general use of MC Canada. 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.

8. 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.

MC Canada leases its offices 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 \$55,000 (2021 - \$54,800) during the year to the Heritage Centre as operating grants.

MC Canada incurred \$131,759 (2021 - \$130,000) in operational and payroll costs during the year which has been contributed to CommonWord.

(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 \$117,843 to Menno Media (2021 - \$10,861).



MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2022

8. Related party transactions (continued):

- (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 2022, MC Canada was paid \$98,995 (2021 - \$54,538) by Industrial Alliance for services provided by MC Canada in relation to administering the plan.

9. 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 2021.

- (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 2021.

- (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 2021.

- (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 3).



MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2022

10. Partner ministries:

	2022	2021
CommonWord	\$ 133,389	\$ 139,619
Canadian Mennonite University	83,689	107,147
Mennonite Heritage Centre Archives	55,000	54,800
Mennonite World Conference	35,000	85,000
Canadian Council of Churches	11,328	11,176
Evangelical Fellowship of Canada	6,000	6,422
	\$ 324,406	\$ 404,164



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MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Schedule - MC Canada Operations

Year ended January 31, 2022, with comparative information for 2021

	Executive	Christian Formation	Christian Witness Office	Christian Witness Program	Indigenous Settler Relations	Communications Operations and Occupancy	Partner Projects	2022	2021
Expenses:									
Staff salary and payroll	\$ 161,680	\$ 1,452	\$ 80,339	\$ 358,274	\$ 84,831	\$ 220,776	\$ -	\$ 907,352	\$ 844,519
Staff travel	6,838	-	22,102	37,061	1,684	66	-	67,751	32,952
Staff professional development	1,662	-	500	-	1,022	-	-	3,184	3,512
Joint Council and executive staff group	15,884	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,884	1,583
Resourcing	-	2,918	2,130	43,701	3,754	48,369	23,300	124,172	141,091
Program	30,791	31,146	11,695	203,863	50,341	23,236	466,523	817,595	950,765
Facility	-	-	-	-	-	66,400	-	66,400	515
Legal and audit	-	-	-	-	-	29,984	-	29,984	35,997
	\$ 216,855	\$ 35,516	\$ 116,766	\$ 642,899	\$ 141,632	\$ 388,831	\$ 489,823	\$ 2,032,322	\$ 2,010,934



Operating Budget Financial Statements

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Mennonite Church Canada
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
January 31, 2022



Operating Budget Financial Statements
January 31st, 2022 PAGE 2/4

**STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES
FOR THE 12 MONTH PERIOD ENDED January 31, 2022**

	ACTUAL YEAR TO DATE \$	BUDGET YEAR TO DATE \$	OVER (UNDER) BUDGET \$	BUDGET CURRENT YEAR \$
REVENUE				
Revenue - MCEC Contributions	\$503,637	\$500,410	\$3,226	\$500,410
Revenue - MCM Contributions	\$293,341	\$231,250	\$62,091	\$231,250
Revenue - MCSASK Contributions	\$95,902	\$110,000	(\$14,098)	\$110,000
Revenue - MCA Contributions	\$77,809	\$72,000	\$5,809	\$72,000
Revenue - MCBC	\$70,185	\$41,000	\$29,185	\$41,000
Revenue - Individual Contributions	\$14,117	\$20,000	(\$5,883)	\$20,000
Relational Witness Funding	\$407,482	\$399,000	\$8,482	\$399,000
Transfer In from General Bequest Fund	\$85,359	\$85,359	(\$0.01)	\$85,359
Revenue - Interest Income	\$1,641	\$1,500	\$141	\$1,500
Revenue - Government Subsidies	(\$255)	\$0	(\$255)	\$0
TOTAL OPERATING FUND REVENUE	\$1,549,217	\$1,460,520	\$88,698	\$1,460,520
EXPENDITURES				
Partner Ministries				
Mennonite World Conference	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$0	\$35,000
CommonWord	\$132,017	\$130,000	\$2,017	\$130,000
Mennonite Archives and Gallery	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$0	\$55,000
Canadian Mennonite	\$83,689	\$83,143	\$546	\$83,143
Canadian Council of Churches	\$11,328	\$11,176	\$152	\$11,176
Evangelical Fellowship of Canada	\$6,000	\$6,422	(\$422)	\$6,422
Total Partner Ministries	\$323,034	\$320,741	\$2,293	\$320,741
Operating Fund				
Executive Office (Schedule 1)	\$209,626	\$216,860	(\$7,235)	\$216,860
Leadership Formation (Schedule 2)	\$18,601	\$11,585	\$7,016	\$11,585
International Witness (Schedule 3)	\$598,278	\$594,127	\$4,150	\$594,127
Indigenous/Settler Relations (Schedule 4)	\$114,339	\$109,517	\$4,822	\$109,517
Communications (Schedule 5)	\$50,985	\$45,376	\$5,609	\$45,376
Support Services (Schedule 6)	\$116,953	\$116,036	\$917	\$116,036
Occupancy (Schedule 7)	\$73,748	\$72,535	\$1,213	\$72,535
Total Operating Fund Expenditures	\$1,182,530	\$1,166,036	\$16,494	\$1,166,036
Net Surplus/(Deficit) from Operations	\$43,653	(\$26,258)	\$69,911	(\$26,258)
Net Surplus/(Deficit) from Partner Projects	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
MC Canada General Reserve Fund Draw	\$0	\$26,258	(\$26,258)	\$26,258
Net Operating Fund revenue (expenditures)	\$43,653	\$0	\$43,653	\$0



Operating Budget Financial Statements

January 31st, 2022 PAGE 3/4

**SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES
FOR THE 12 MONTH PERIOD ENDED January 31, 2022**

	ACTUAL YEAR TO DATE \$	BUDGET YEAR TO DATE \$	OVER (UNDER) BUDGET \$	BUDGET CURRENT YEAR \$
Executive Office (Schedule 1)				
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	(\$6,950)	\$0	(\$6,950)	\$0
Revenue - Gathering Registrations	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Recognized Deferred Contributions	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$161,417	\$162,610	(\$1,193)	\$162,610
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$6,823	\$7,500	(\$677)	\$7,500
Staff Training and Development	\$1,661	\$2,250	(\$589)	\$2,250
Joint Council & Executive Staff Group Travel & Expenses	\$15,884	\$25,000	(\$9,116)	\$25,000
Gathering Expenses	\$0	\$5,000	(\$5,000)	\$5,000
Program Expenses	\$30,791	\$14,500	\$16,291	\$14,500
	\$209,626	\$216,860	(\$7,235)	\$216,860
Leadership Formation (Schedule 2)				
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	(\$2,499)	(\$3,000)	\$501	(\$3,000)
Transfer in from Other Funds	(\$14,415)	(\$14,415)	\$0	(\$14,415)
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$1,452	\$0	\$1,452	\$0
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Staff Professional Development	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Program, Education, and Training	\$31,146	\$26,000	\$5,146	\$26,000
Dues & Subscriptions	\$2,917	\$3,000	(\$83)	\$3,000
	\$18,601	\$11,585	\$7,016	\$11,585
International Witness (Schedule 3)				
Designated Giving	(\$8,161)	\$0	(\$8,161)	\$0
Recognized Deferred Contributions	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Co-Ministry Fees	(\$27,721)	(\$29,260)	\$1,540	(\$29,260)
Self-Generated Revenue & Cost Recovery	(\$11,986)	(\$6,000)	(\$5,986)	(\$6,000)
Transfer In from Other Funds	(\$113,520)	(\$113,520)	\$0	(\$113,520)
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$80,339	\$94,175	(\$13,835)	\$94,175
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$22,102	\$12,000	\$10,102	\$12,000
Staff Professional Development	\$500	\$0	\$500	\$0
Itineration Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Publicity and Promotions	\$0	\$2,500	(\$2,500)	\$2,500
Membership Fees	\$2,130	\$3,000	(\$870)	\$3,000
Program Expenses	\$11,695	\$20,000	(\$8,305)	\$20,000
Witness Programs				
Benin	\$13,220	\$15,000	(\$1,780)	\$15,000
Burkina Faso	\$5,054	\$17,000	(\$11,946)	\$17,000
Congo	\$34,000	\$34,000	\$0	\$34,000
Ethiopia	\$17,527	\$0	\$17,527	\$0
China	\$166,433	\$158,716	\$7,717	\$158,716
Phillipines	\$148,992	\$156,117	(\$7,125)	\$156,117
South Korea	\$98,001	\$97,085	\$916	\$97,085
Thailand	\$122,671	\$113,315	\$9,357	\$113,315
England	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Germany	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ukraine	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Colombia	\$37,000	\$20,000	\$17,000	\$20,000
Cuba	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$598,278	\$594,127	\$4,150	\$594,127



Operating Budget Financial Statements

January 31st, 2022 PAGE 4/4

**SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES
FOR THE 12 MONTH PERIOD ENDED January 31, 2022**

	ACTUAL YEAR TO DATE \$	BUDGET YEAR TO DATE \$	OVER (UNDER) BUDGET \$	BUDGET CURRENT YEAR \$
Indigenous/Settler Relations (Schedule 4)				
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	(\$9,722)	\$0	(\$9,722)	\$0
Transfer in from Other Funds	(\$8,500)	(\$8,500)	\$0	(\$8,500)
Self-Generated Revenue	(\$9,071)	(\$12,000)	\$2,929	(\$12,000)
Interest Income	\$0	(\$332)	\$332	(\$332)
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$84,831	\$84,649	\$182	\$84,649
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$1,684	\$4,250	(\$2,566)	\$4,250
Staff Professional Development	\$1,022	\$0	\$1,022	\$0
Indigenous Training & Leadership Development	\$3,754	\$2,500	\$1,254	\$2,500
Publicity & Promotion	\$0	\$1,000	(\$1,000)	\$1,000
Cost of Sales	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Program Expenses	\$50,341	\$37,950	\$12,391	\$37,950
	\$114,339	\$109,517	\$4,822	\$109,517
Communications (Schedule 5)				
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	(\$2,000)	(\$4,000)	\$2,000	(\$4,000)
Deferred Contribution Amortization	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$38,952	\$34,876	\$4,076	\$34,876
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$35	\$1,500	(\$1,465)	\$1,500
Staff Professional Development	\$0	\$500	(\$500)	\$500
Program Costs	\$13,663	\$7,000	\$6,663	\$7,000
Publicity & Promotion	\$335	\$5,500	(\$5,165)	\$5,500
	\$50,985	\$45,376	\$5,609	\$45,376
Support Services (Schedule 6)				
Self-Generated Revenue & Cost Recovery	(\$152,493)	(\$148,086)	(\$4,408)	(\$148,086)
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$181,824	\$180,372	\$1,453	\$180,372
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$31	\$2,000	(\$1,969)	\$2,000
Staff Professional Development	\$0	\$1,250	(\$1,250)	\$1,250
Office and Admin Expenses	\$48,034	\$55,000	(\$6,966)	\$55,000
Legal & Audit Expenses	\$29,984	\$22,500	\$7,484	\$22,500
Program Expenses	\$9,573	\$3,000	\$6,573	\$3,000
	\$116,953	\$116,036	\$917	\$116,036
Occupancy Costs (Schedule 7)				
Rental Revenue	(\$26,746)	(\$26,746)	\$0	(\$26,746)
Rent & CAMS	\$20,527	\$12,000	\$8,527	\$12,000
Office & Building Maintenance	\$28,485	\$20,000	\$8,485	\$20,000
Transfer to Capital Reserve Fund	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000
Insurance	\$17,388	\$20,000	(\$2,612)	\$20,000
Depreciation	\$14,094	\$27,281	(\$13,187)	\$27,281
	\$73,748	\$72,535	\$1,213	\$72,535



Budget 2022-2023

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MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA OPERATING FUND REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES

	BUDGET 2022-23	ACTUAL 2021-22	BUDGET 2021-22
REVENUE			
Revenue - MCEC Contributions	\$583,783	\$503,637	\$500,410
Revenue - MCM Contributions	\$333,731	\$291,821	\$231,250
Revenue - MCSASK Contributions	\$128,333	\$95,902	\$110,000
Revenue - MCA Contributions	\$84,000	\$77,809	\$72,000
Revenue - MCBC Contributions	\$47,833	\$70,185	\$41,000
Revenue - Individual Contributions	\$23,333	\$14,117	\$20,000
Revenue - Relational Witness Funding	\$385,000	\$407,482	\$399,000
Revenue - General Bequest Fund Amortization	\$64,105	\$85,359	\$85,359
Revenue - Interest Income	\$1,500	\$199	\$1,500
Revenue - Government Subsidies	\$0	(\$255)	\$0
TOTAL OPERATING FUND REVENUE	\$1,651,620	\$1,546,256	\$1,460,520
EXPENDITURES			
Partner Ministries			
Mennonite World Conference	\$90,833	\$35,000	\$35,000
CommonWord	\$151,667	\$110,996	\$130,000
Mennonite Archives and Gallery	\$64,167	\$55,000	\$55,000
Canadian Mennonite	\$99,913	\$83,689	\$83,143
Canadian Council of Christian Churches	\$11,172	\$11,328	\$11,176
Evangelical Fellowship of Canada	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,422
Other	\$2,550	\$0	\$0
Total Partner Ministries	\$426,302	\$302,013	\$320,741
Operating Fund			
Executive Office (Schedule 1)	\$279,442	\$209,626	\$216,860
Leadership Formation (Schedule 2)	\$66,305	\$17,629	\$11,585
International Witness (Schedule 3)	\$604,540	\$596,150	\$594,127
Indigenous/Settler Relations (Schedule 4)	\$86,316	\$114,313	\$109,517
Communications (Schedule 5)	\$79,827	\$51,438	\$45,376
Support Services (Schedule 6)	\$138,236	\$117,617	\$116,036
Occupancy (Schedule 7)	\$62,578	\$59,654	\$45,254
Total Operating Fund Expenditures	\$1,317,244	\$1,166,428	\$1,138,755
Net Surplus/(Deficit) from Operations	(\$91,927)	\$77,815	\$1,023
Net Surplus/(Deficit) from Partner Projects	\$0	\$0	\$0
MC Canada General Reserve Fund Draw	\$91,927	\$0	\$0
Net Operating Fund revenue (expenditures)	\$0	\$77,815	\$1,023



Budget 2022-2023
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**MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA
STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES**

	BUDGET 2022-23	ACTUAL 2021-22	BUDGET 2021-22
Executive Office (Schedule 1)			
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	(\$25,000)	(\$6,950)	\$0
Revenue - Gathering Registrations	(\$152,875)	\$0	\$0
Revenue - Recognized Deferred Contributions	(\$5,000)	\$0	\$0
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$198,942	\$161,417	\$162,610
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$16,000	\$6,823	\$7,500
Staff Training and Development	\$3,500	\$1,661	\$2,250
Joint Council & Executive Staff Group Travel & Expenses	\$51,800	\$15,884	\$25,000
Gathering Expenses	\$153,475	\$0	\$5,000
Program Expenses	\$38,600	\$30,791	\$14,500
	\$279,442	\$209,626	\$216,860
Leadership Formation (Schedule 2)			
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	(\$5,000)	(\$2,499)	(\$3,000)
Deferred Contribution Amortization - Formation Bequest	(\$15,902)	(\$14,415)	(\$14,415)
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$41,808	\$1,452	\$0
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$2,500	\$0	\$0
Staff Professional Development	\$500	\$0	\$0
Education & Training	\$39,400	\$30,175	\$26,000
Dues & Subscriptions	\$3,000	\$2,917	\$3,000
	\$66,305	\$17,629	\$11,585
International Witness (Schedule 3)			
Co-Ministry Fees	(\$24,322)	(\$27,721)	(\$29,260)
Self-Generated Revenue & Cost Recovery	(\$2,000)	(\$20,147)	(\$6,000)
Deferred Contribution Amortization	(\$124,684)	(\$113,520)	(\$113,520)
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$111,214	\$80,339	\$94,175
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$21,500	\$22,102	\$12,000
Staff Professional Development	\$500	\$500	\$0
Itineration Expenses	\$2,500	\$0	\$0
Publicity and Promotions	\$5,000	\$0	\$2,500
Membership Fees	\$4,000	\$2,130	\$3,000
Program Expenses	\$7,000	\$11,695	\$20,000
Witness Programs			
Benin	\$15,000	\$13,220	\$15,000
Burkina Faso	\$15,000	\$4,942	\$17,000
Congo	\$34,000	\$34,000	\$34,000
Ethiopia	\$23,245	\$17,527	\$0
China	\$66,823	\$164,418	\$158,716
Phillipines	\$178,313	\$148,992	\$156,117
South Korea	\$105,250	\$98,001	\$97,085
Thailand	\$131,201	\$122,671	\$113,315
Colombia	\$20,000	\$37,000	\$20,000
Japan	\$15,000	\$0	\$0
	\$604,540	\$596,150	\$594,127



Budget 2022-2023
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**MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA
STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES**

	BUDGET 2022-23	ACTUAL 2021-22	BUDGET 2021-22
Indigenous/Settler Relations (Schedule 4)			
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	\$0	(\$9,722)	\$0
Deferred Contribution Amortization	(\$26,754)	(\$8,526)	(\$8,832)
Self-Generated Revenue	(\$9,000)	(\$9,071)	(\$12,000)
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$107,970	\$84,831	\$84,649
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$500	\$1,684	\$4,250
Staff Professional Development	\$0	\$1,022	\$0
Indigenous Training & Leadership Development	\$2,500	\$3,754	\$2,500
Publicity & Promotion	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
Postage & Shipping	\$0	\$0	\$3,000
Cost of Sales	\$0	\$0	\$0
Program Expenses	\$10,100	\$50,341	\$34,950
	\$86,316	\$114,313	\$109,517
Communications (Schedule 5)			
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	\$0	(\$2,000)	(\$4,000)
Deferred Contribution Amortization	\$0	\$0	\$0
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$42,287	\$38,952	\$34,876
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$2,000	\$35	\$1,500
Staff Professional Development	\$500	\$0	\$500
Program Costs	\$29,540	\$14,116	\$7,000
Publicity & Promotion	\$5,500	\$335	\$5,500
	\$79,827	\$51,438	\$45,376
Support Services (Schedule 6)			
Self-Generated Revenue & Cost Recovery	(\$189,846)	(\$152,493)	(\$148,086)
Deferred Contribution Amortization	\$0	\$0	\$0
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$241,865	\$181,824	\$180,372
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000
Staff Professional Development	\$1,250	\$0	\$1,250
Office and Admin Expenses	\$54,467	\$48,729	\$55,000
Legal & Audit Expenses	\$27,500	\$29,984	\$22,500
Program Expenses	\$1,000	\$9,573	\$3,000
	\$138,236	\$117,617	\$116,036
Occupancy Costs (Schedule 7)			
Rental Revenue	(\$31,204)	(\$26,746)	(\$26,746)
Revenue - Recognized Deferred Contributions	\$0	\$0	\$0
Utilities and Taxes	\$23,948	\$20,527	\$12,000
Office & Building Maintenance	\$30,000	\$28,485	\$20,000
Major Capital Repairs	\$0	\$0	\$0
Allocation to Capital Reserve	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
Insurance	\$19,833	\$17,388	\$20,000
	\$62,578	\$59,654	\$45,254

Delegate Information

Mennonite Church Canada
Gathering 2022
Report Book



MC Canada Covenant Document

October 21st, 2018 PAGE 1/2

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




MC Canada Covenant Document
Draft 4 PAGE 2/2

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



Operating Agreement Among the Five Regional Churches in their Collaboration as Mennonite Church Canada

Adopted by Joint Council as a living document – June 8, 2022

NOTE: Joint Council will be reviewing pending changes to cover updates to Section 12 in October 2022. Unlike the Operating Bylaws, the Operating Agreement does not require MC Canada delegate approval.

List of acronyms used in the text

CLM – Church Leadership Ministers
COSL – Community of Spiritual Leaders
EM – Mennonite Church Canada Executive Minister
EMG – Executive Minister Group
FPAC – Financial Policy and Audit Committee
JC – Joint Council
MC Canada – Mennonite Church Canada
REM – Regional Executive Minister
SRA – Shared Revenue Agreement

Text

1. Introduction and Background

This Operating Agreement replaces the Operating Agreement prepared for the Special Assembly of October 14, 2017, in the formation of the new structure, as well as the Governance Protocols of November 30, 2017. Prior to 2017 Mennonite Church Canada followed a General Operating By-law.

2. Purpose of Operating Agreement

This Operating Agreement articulates how the five Regional Churches (Mennonite Church Alberta, Mennonite Church British Columbia, Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, Mennonite Church Manitoba, and Mennonite Church Saskatchewan) will operationalize their covenant with each other as Mennonite Church Canada, consistent with the General Operating By-law. As such the Joint Council can change the agreement within the limits of the By-law.

3. Theological Identity of Mennonite Church Canada

MC Canada is a faith community rooted in the historic Anabaptist tradition, grounded in Scripture, with the Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective serving

as an interpretive guide for faith and life. Three core convictions animate MC Canada: 1) **Jesus** is the centre of our faith, 2) **Community** is the centre of our lives, and 3) **Reconciliation** is the centre of our work.

4. Mennonite Church Canada as an integrated structure

4.1 MC Canada is an integrated system, beginning with congregations, which form Regional Churches, which covenant together as MC Canada for a common mission:

- **Congregations** are the primary locus of God's mission in the world. In these local communities, Christians worship and pray together, discern how to faithfully follow Jesus Christ, nurture and support each other, and reach out into their communities in service and witness.
- Congregations covenant with each other as **Regional Churches**. As Regional Churches, congregations support and resource each other, learn from each other, undertake regional missional initiatives, and nurture and administer pastoral leadership.
- Regional Churches covenant with each other as **Mennonite Church Canada**. As MC Canada, Regional Churches support and resource our nationwide priorities and ministries as well as fulfill our responsibilities in the larger body of Christ, both Anabaptist and other.

4.2 The covenant among the Regional Churches forming MC Canada will be reviewed and renewed every 3 years.

5. Core Principles

5.1 MC Canada is a legal entity and as such has its own formal identity.

5.2 MC Canada is the five Regional Churches working together as one. As such the five Regional Churches and MC Canada are mutually interdependent.

5.3 The Regional Churches are accountable to each other through a covenant by which:

- 5.3.1 They commit to seeking the health of all Regional Churches and MC Canada



as a whole system in their decision-making, both individually and collectively. All programming is thus ultimately programming of the larger system, whether initiated and administered by a Regional Church, or collectively as MC Canada.

- 5.3.2 They agree that policy, nationwide agenda, and priorities are to be established through collaborative work in and through the JC.
- 5.3.3 They agree that they will animate the agenda and priorities of the larger system through regular attention to them at Regional Church Board meetings and at Regional Church delegate gatherings, e.g., by inviting the EM or other senior staff to Board meetings, retreats, or other such settings.

5.4 MC Canada strives to be an intercultural church, with values of equity, diversity, and inclusion at all levels, e.g., in the appointment of representatives to the JC from the Regional Churches.

6. Delegate Gatherings

Delegate Gatherings take place annually, with an expanded Gathering scheduled for every second year. At these Gatherings delegates from the Regional Churches receive reports, approve budgets, and discuss and debate issues, thereby discerning the direction of MC Canada and its participation in the mission of God in the world (see By-Law for detail).

7. Joint Council

- 7.1 The JC is the primary setting in which the Regional Churches collaborate and exercise governance of MC Canada. It is composed of 13 voting members:
 - 7.1.1 Three officers elected by MC Canada delegates;
 - 7.1.2 The Moderators of the five Regional Churches;
 - 7.1.3 One additional representative from each Regional Church.
- 7.2 The EM serves as the staff person for the JC. The five REMs sit with the JC for its meetings.
- 7.3 The JC is a governing Board, giving primary attention to vision, priorities, and policy. For duties see By-law.

7.4 The EM is responsible for developing the agenda for JC meetings, in conversation with the JC Moderator and the EMG. Regional Church Moderators as well as other JC members are welcome to propose agenda items to the EM.

7.5 Recommendations to the JC normally come from the EM or FPAC, and perhaps occasionally from EMG. Recommendations initiated by program areas (e.g., International Witness) are processed first by the EM and come to JC via the EM. Recommendations may be approved, changed, rejected, or tabled by JC.

7.6 The integrated nature of MC Canada, consistent with the Regional Churches' commitment to seek the health of the whole integrated system (i.e., the Regions & MC Canada), requires that JC members agree to act in the interests of the whole, and not give their own Regions preferential consideration. This does not, however, prevent them from offering regional perspectives in the conversation.

7.7 Since the Regional Churches are independent bodies with their own identity and governance, even as they are covenanted together as MC Canada, it is always an art as to how decisions made by the JC impact upon the Regional Churches. Whenever the JC makes a decision, it will thus also consider and address how this decision intersects with the role and authority of the Regional Churches, e.g., whether it is a final decision or requires ratification by the Regional Churches.

7.8 If a JC member perceives that they may be in a conflict of interest, they will declare this to the Board.

8. Joint Council Executive

- 8.1 The JC Executive consists of the 3 JC officers elected by MC Canada delegates (Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Secretary/Treasurer), plus one additional member elected by the JC from within itself.
- 8.2 The JC Executive derives its authority from the JC, and acts on its behalf between meetings. The Executive may not alter JC decisions. The JC may from time to time grant the Executive more or less authority over certain matters.
- 8.3 The JC Moderator is the only JC member authorized to speak for the JC. The Assistant Moderator may assume this role if the



Moderator is not available.

- 8.4 A primary responsibility of the JC Executive is to facilitate and ensure the integrity of the JC process.

9. Financial Principles

- 9.1 A Shared Revenue Agreement approved by JC and the Regional Churches articulates how the Regions understand their mutual financial accountability and responsibilities within the covenant relationship (copy attached).
- 9.2 The Financial Policy and Audit Committee (FPAC) monitors MC Canada's financial operations, develops policies and procedures for recommendation to the JC, and provides advice on all financial matters to the EM and JC (for more detail, see By-law).

10. Mennonite Church Canada Executive Minister

- 10.1 The EM is appointed by the JC upon recommendation from a JC appointed Search Committee.
- 10.2 At least a year before the end of the EM's appointment term, the Executive oversees a review process leading to a recommendation to the JC for formal action on possible reappointment.
- 10.3 The Moderator serves as the direct supervisor of the EM.
- 10.4 The EM is responsible for leading and overseeing MC Canada programming, as well as for hiring and supervising MC Canada staff.
- 10.5 The EM is a full participant in the meetings of the JC, the JC Executive, and the EMG.

11. Regional Executive Ministers, and the Executive Minister Group

- 11.1 The EMG consists of the five REMs and the EM, collaborating together as peers. It is thus not a governance body making programmatic decisions.
- 11.2 The EMG is chaired by the EM.
- 11.3 The REMs are each accountable to their respective Regional Churches and Boards. The covenant among the Regional Churches to form MC Canada, however, gives them vision and responsibility beyond their own Region to that of other Regions and MC Canada as a whole. They thus agree to act in the interests of MC Canada as an integrated system.
- 11.4 The five REMs have a responsibility to represent

and promote nationwide programs in their own Regions. Conversely, the EM has a responsibility to represent and promote regional programs across the country. The REMs also are part of providing feedback to the EM reflecting the concerns and priorities of their Regions.

- 11.5 The EMG meets regularly for the following:
 - 11.5.1 Fellowship and mutual support;
 - 11.5.2 Sharing and learning from each other about regional programs, e.g., camps;
 - 11.5.3 Providing feedback to the EM;
 - 11.5.4 Considering and reviewing the overall health of the MC Canada system (Regions and nationwide), including monitoring how budgets are tracking (see SRA clauses 1 and 3);
 - 11.5.5 Operationalizing administrative details in their joint collaboration;
 - 11.5.6 Assisting the EM in developing recommendations for JC on programs, initiatives or positions.

12. Community of Spiritual Leaders (COSL) and Church Leadership Ministers (CLM)

(The COSL and the CLM both have important roles to play in MC Canada, but clarification is still needed on how to speak of these roles and how they interact with the rest of the system.)

13. Nationwide Programs, Ministries and Roles

- 13.1 A program approved by the JC becomes a nationwide program or initiative, under the responsibility of the EM.
- 13.2 MC Canada will administer and provide the necessary staff for nationwide programs and ministries as determined by the JC and the Regional Churches (e.g., International Witness) to be funded through the SRA.
- 13.3 MC Canada will provide services to the Regional Churches as determined by JC and the Regional Churches, including the following: nationwide benefit plan, nationwide pension plan, salary guidelines for pastors, ministerial database.
- 13.4 The ministry of MC Canada and its Regions extend to national and global partnerships and affiliations. The Regional Churches thus normally relate to international bodies via MC Canada. The structure and essence of these partnerships and affiliations are determined by the JC.
- 13.5 The EM may appoint advisory groups/



committees with specialized experience and skills in relationship to particular program areas, e.g., International Witness. The formation of such groups is done in consultation with a variety of people with attention to the regions. The EM will report this to the JC, with the minutes of meetings of such groups available to the JC.

14. Communications

- 14.1 MC Canada (normally) speaks on behalf of the whole (Regional Churches and their congregations) as it relates to MC USA, Mennonite World Conference, other global bodies, international agencies, the nationwide church and nationwide denominations.
 - 14.2 MC Canada may at times develop and declare position statements. Such statements may be drafted by various parts of the organization (e.g., EMG), but if considered significant they should be processed by JC.
 - 14.3 Regional Churches speak on behalf of MC Canada, including the work of the JC, its program and work, and the other Regional Churches in their communication with their member congregations.
 - 14.3 Regional Churches agree to develop and work within a shared communication strategy, with an eye to consistent unified branding across the system.
-



Bylaws for Delegate Duties and Powers (9.0) and Purpose of Gathering (10.2)

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.

Bylaw 10. Delegate Gatherings

- 10.2 The purpose of regular Delegate Gatherings shall be to:
- a) 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;
 - b) 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
 - c) transact any other necessary business.



Responsibilities of Delegates for Gathering 2022

Prepare:

1. Read the report book.
2. Discuss questions with other delegates from your region.

Remember

1. Delegates decide to do what is in the best interest of MC Canada – who we are together as 5 regions.
2. Whatever is in the best interests of the regions altogether will be in the best interests of MC Canada.

Participate

1. Vote on the financial statements and the budget.
 2. Listen to Ministry reporting and share ideas to enhance nationwide ministries.
 3. Engage in generative and strategic thinking related to collective ministry as a nationwide church. What is important to carry forward from our 2007 document? What needs to be changed? What needs to be added?
 - [Summary of Regional Priorities and Ministries](#) (summaries start on page 114)
 - [MC Canada Identity Purpose and Priorities Document](#) (page 121)
 - [Guiding Understandings for Nationwide Decision-Building and Operations](#) (page 120)
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Delegate Gathering and Annual General Meeting 2019 Minutes Abbotsford, B.C., June 29, 2019

NOTE: *This version of these minutes were reviewed by Joint Council and are recommended for approval at the next Delegate Gathering. However, they still need to be formally adopted at the next Delegate Gathering and AGM.*

Abbreviations:

MC Can - Mennonite Church Canada
MCEC - Mennonite Church Eastern Canada
MCM - Mennonite Church Manitoba
MC Sask - Mennonite Church Saskatchewan
MCA - Mennonite Church Alberta
MCBC - Mennonite Church British Columbia

Present:

From MCBC as delegates: Lee Dyck, Betty Loewen, Gerry Grunau, Walter Bergen, Lorne Brandt, Ken Ha, Jorge Hoajaca, Linda Matties, Joon Park, Winston Pratt, Darnell Barkman, Veronica Dyck, Gerry Binnema, AaronRoorda, Andrew Haak

From MCA as delegates: Brenvda Tiessen-Wiens, Margaret Kruger-Harder (did not attend), Anna Lisa Salo, Karen Janz, Wayne Janz, Vincent Friesen, Paul Neufeldt, Ruth Friesen, Elizabeth Wall, William (Riek) Tut, Coreen Froese

From MC Sask as delegates: Terry Stefaniuk, Sharon Schultz, Andrea Enns-Gooding, Pauline Steinmann, Rod Sawatzky, Gordon Peters, Rose Graber, Lois Bukar, Lisa Martens Bartel, Josh Wallace, Gord Siemens, Tim Wiens, Matt Wiens, Henry Funk

From MCM as delegates: Erin Morash, Cherie Ferhrmoore, Harry Huebner, Marilyn Houser Hamm, Neil von Gunten, Aaron Epp, John Klassen, Moses Falco, Rachel Siemens, Maria Dueck, Jose-Luis Morago Diaz, Monica Bock, Wes Goerzen, Randy Hildebrand, Gerald Gerbrandt, Andrea De Avila

From MCEC as delegates: Al Rempel, Ruth Boehm, Suzanne Bender, Stephanie Chandler Burns, Ernie Harris, Randell Neudorf, Brian Quan, Gladys Bender, Tina Charbonneau, Gord Driedger, Hannah Geurkink, Karlie Haining, Emily Hunsberger, Max Kennel, Anneli Loepf Thiessen, Gloria Martin, Yoel Masyawong, Roberson Mbayamvula, Judith McCartney (did not attend), J D Penner, Lyne Renaud, Yared Seretse, Katie Steckly,

Chung Vang, Mesfin Woldearegay, Ly Vang, Arli Klassen (did not attend)

Elected Officers: Calvin Quan (Moderator), Allan Hiebert (Secretary/Treasurer), Geraldine Balzer (Assistant Moderator, did not attend)

Minutes

1. Calvin Quan (Moderator) **called the meeting to order** at 9:20 am Pacific Time and declared the sessions open.
2. In his **opening remarks**, Calvin welcomed all to our first Delegate Gathering in the new expression of Mennonite Church Canada. His welcome included a statement of acknowledgement that we are meeting on first nation territory: "As we meet this day for our Mennonite Church Canada Delegate Session and Nationwide Gathering, we want to acknowledge that we are meeting on the unceded ancestral land of the Coast Salish peoples, predominantly the traditional lands of the Sumas First Nation families. We recognize their enduring connection to and on this land. We are grateful to God for the opportunity to be together and learn together in this community today. As Jesus reconciled us to God, we are called and commit ourselves to the work of reconciliation with each other and specifically with the Indigenous Peoples of this land."
 - a) He reminded delegates that "We come in the name of Jesus, and as God's people, together, to discern and live into God's mission, in a way that reflects His love, grace, and mercy."
 - b) Calvin reviewed the **signed covenant** (page 8 of the report book) that represents the hopes and aspirations the regional churches share, and the commitments that the regional churches make to each other.
 - c) Calvin outlined the **purpose of the Mennonite Church Canada Delegate Gathering** as stated in the bylaws:
 - 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)
- d) **In addition to the business meeting**, for the rest of the weekend, we gather for so much more. The theme of the Gathering 2019 is “Igniting the Imagination of the Church”.
 - We gather to **share** faith stories that ignite our imagination for the mission of the church;
 - We gather to **build** the ministry and mission of the church locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally;
 - We gather to **nurture** faith and fellowship;
 - We gather to **strengthen** a nationwide Anabaptist Mennonite identity.

3. Introductions

- a) Calvin introduced the members of the Joint Council having them each stand as their name was called.
- b) Calvin introduced the members of the Executive Staff Group.
- c) Calvin introduced the member of Mennonite Church Canada staff.
- d) Calvin welcomed guests from our partner organizations, agencies and others who highlight the role,
- e) reach and scope of MC Canada ministry and relationships on behalf of congregations and Regional
- f) Churches in ministry and mission across the street and around the world.

4. Process

- a) Calvin review the bylaws items regarding quorum and indicated that 84 of the possible 84 delegates
- b) were in attendance. He therefore declared that quorum of delegates was present.
- c) The members of the resolutions committee were introduced; Josh Wallace (MC Sask), Darnell Barkman
- d) (MCBC) and Monica Block (MCM). The tasks of the Resolution Committee are to (a) Prepare procedure
- e) resolutions, (b) Formulate motions (and amendments) when asked by the delegate body or moderator,
- f) and (c) receive resolutions form delegates and ensure they are clear and appropriate.
- g) The members of the Listening Committee were introduced: Rachel Siemens (MCM), Max Kennel

- h) (MCEC), and Ruth Friesen (MCA). The Listening Committee is available to record comments and
- i) feedback and will be collecting and compiling the table group discussion reports.
- j) The Parliamentarian for Gathering 2019 will be Ed Janzen. Calvin invited Ed to the front to remind
- k) delegates how we work together. Ed asked all to respect the following:
 - i) Everyone – delegates and non-delegates – are welcome to discuss the topics during the session. However, our bylaws state that only delegates can vote
 - ii) For those who wish to bring a comment or questions, we ask that you first say your name and your congregation
 - iii) Speak to the whole delegate body, not to a particular individual
 - iv) Comments should be respectful and gracious
 - v) v. Keep your comments to 2 minutes, allowing others an opportunity
 - vi) If the point you wish to make has already been made, we ask that you not come to the mike
 - vii) To enable as many people as possible to speak, we would ask that you pay attention to how often you decide to speak.
 - viii) Please refrain from applauding in ways that show preference.
- a) Full minutes of the July 2016 Assembly, held in Saskatoon, were distributed to delegates and participants prior to the Gathering.

5. [PLACEHOLDER to match incorrect numbering of original document]

Moved by Joint Council “that the Delegate Gathering accept the minutes of the Mennonite Church Canada Assembly as circulated”. No discussion. Carried unanimously.

6. Minutes of the 2017 Special Assembly in Winnipeg

- a) Full minutes of the 2017 Special Assembly held in Winnipeg were distributed to delegates and participants prior to the Gathering.

Moved by Joint Council “that the Delegate Gathering accept the minutes of the Mennonite Church Canada 2017 Special Assembly as circulated.” No discussion. Carried unanimously.

7. Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting

- a) Full minutes of the 2018 AGM were distributed to delegates and participants prior to the Gathering.

Moved by Joint Council "That the Delegate Gathering accept the minutes of the Mennonite Church Canada Annual General Meeting as circulated." No discussion. Carried unanimously.

8. Actions of the General Board and Joint Council

- a) Pages 12-14 of the Report Book, distributed to delegates and participant prior to the Gather, contain a list of the actions of the General Board and the Joint Council since the last regular Assembly in 2016.

Moved by Joint Council "That the Delegate Gathering accept the actions of the General Board and Joint Council since the last Delegate Assembly as circulated."

- b) Discussion
 - i) Doug Hatlem Erb Street Mennonite (non-delegate) Question: does this include the civil disobedience policy? This policy reflects an understanding that we ought to obey men and not God, this policy is too broad and needs to be readdressed.
 - ii) This policy is under review by the Joint Council and may be altered by Joint Council after consultation with MC Canada staff
 - iii) Rose Graber (Peace Mennonite Regina): Can the policy be made public for the rest of the delegates and guests?
 - iv) Allan Hiebert (Foothills Mennonite Church): The policy was set to determine when a staff member was speaking on behalf of the body rather than as an individual. Allan asked if Henry Paetkau had the policy on his laptop and could read the policy.
 - v) Henry Paetkau read the policy under discussion and reiterated that the conversation is continuing.
 - vi) It was pointed out the some of the dates on the Actions document were incorrect, with the year reading "2019" where it should be "2018".

Carried with the date changes noted.

9. Interim Executive Minister Report (Pages 7-11 of the Report Book)

- a) Calvin invited Henry Paetkau, Interim Executive Minister, forward to answer any questions on his report
- b) Discussion: Retirement offered Henry more time to shave therefore the moustache is gone.

10. Financial Report

- a) Calvin invited Allan Hiebert, Secretary/Treasurer of Joint Council, forward to present the Financial Statements for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2019 and other matters.
- b) Allan asked if there were any questions on the Secretary/Treasurer report, given on pages 58-60 of of the Report Book. No questions.

11. FYE 2019 Financial Statements

- a) Allan gave a brief discussion of the Audited Financial Statements for the fiscal year ending January
- b) 31, 2019, given on pages 61-87 of the Report Book

Moved by Joint Council, "That the Financial Statements for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2019, be accepted as presented." No discussion. Carried.

12. Appointment of Auditors

Moved by Joint Council, "That KPMG LLP be appointed as auditors of Mennonite Church Canada for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2020". No discussion. Carried.

13. Budget Presentation

- a) Allan presented the proposed budget for the FYE 2020, given on pages 88-91 of the Report Book. He highlighted that the revenue was now mostly from Regional Church contributions, but that bequests in wills as also a major source. He also gave an overview of the expense categories and reminded churches that we ran pension and benefit programs at a nation-wide level that they could enroll their staff in.
- b) Questions:
 - i) Moses Falco (Sterling): questions of clarification: when we sent money to our regional church does that count toward our responsibility to the Nation-Wide church? Does the money ear marked for IW worker does that go directly to the worker? Yes.

Does an individual donation also go directly to the worker or does that get lumped into the MCM contribution to the national program? Response: it goes directly to the IW worker and is not credited to the Regional Church contribution.

- i) Toby Thiessen (TUMC): could you comment on the reduction of the amounts that the regional churches have budgeted to the Nation-Wide church. Response: You will have to address this at the Regional churches.
 - ii) Allan comment that some of the contributions are recorded as larger than the budget. This was due mostly to an issue of timing due to differences in FYE, and in small part because of an accounting error in the previous fiscal year end that was noticed after the year end.
- c) The budget vote will occur later in the program.

14. Nominations

- a) In keeping with our bylaws 14.2 and 15.1, a request for other nominations was sent to delegates, prior to our Gathering, in the Nominating Committee Report. As no new nominations were received 24 hours before the start of today's Gathering, nominations are now closed.
- b) The nominating committee was introduced: Gladys Bender (MCEC), Eric Rempel (MCM), Anna Rehan (MC Sask), Marguerite Jack (MCA), and Waldimar Neufeld (MCBC).
- c) Calvin invited Marguerite Jack forward to present the nomination slate for MC Canada Officers, which was included in the Nominating Committee Report sent to delegates and participants prior to the Gathering.
- d) Nominations for MC Canada Executive Officers were:
 - i) Calvin Quan, Moderator
 - ii) Geraldine Balzer, Assistant Moderator
 - iii) Allan Hiebert, Secretary/Treasurer
- e) The election of officers will occur later in the program
- f) Calvin discussed the Financial Policy and Audit Committee, and the need to elect members of this committee
- g) Joint Council has nominated Tony Schellenberg to serve a second term on the Financial Policy and Audit Committee

- h) A vote to affirm Tony's role and term will occur later in the program.

15. Regional Church Reporting on the movement of God's Spirit

- a) MCA: Anna Lisa Salo, of Bergthal Mennonite Church located near Didsbury, Alberta, presented on the use of an underused church property which became a playground for family gatherings and outdoor events in their rural community. She also talked about the interactions between the Chin Mennonite Church and the Bergthal Mennonite Church presenting a longing for a connectedness between MCA people
- b) MCBC: Winston Pratt Peace Mennonite Church Richmond, presented a time line of what Peace Menno has done in order to be a blessing to our neighbors. Five or six years ago we started a community meal which now feeds 120 people twice a month. Three years ago, we asked how we can open ourselves up to other convictions without losing our Mennonite identity. The answer we are exploring is how to modernize our worship experience to be more inviting and inclusive.
- c) MCM: Ken Warkentin presented on the Winnipeg Indigenous Accord and the ways that hearts are being transformed in Manitoba and in their congregations
- d) MCEC: Gordon Driedger, Peticodiac Mennonite Church, New Brunswick, presented on the many ways that congregations participate in activities of service, but it is the commitment to each other as they gather in worship that indicates the presence of the Spirit of God
- e) MC Sask: Pauline Steinman: The Spirit of God moves in the lives of those who simply listen to God in silence, meditation, scripture, in the community of MC Sask. Congregations have spent the last year deepening their relationship with God through these new patterns of prayer. The Spirituality Resource Team had a deep desire to connect people with God and they made themselves available to congregations.

16. Regional Church Reporting on the movement of God's Spirit

- a) Calvin indicated that delegates and participants were invited to respond to the question: What ignites your imagination about missional activities in your congregation, Regional Church or MC Canada?"

- b) Each table was asked to identify a Scribe to record comments on the notepads provided. The listening committee will assist in collecting and compiling the comments. These will be made available on MC Canada's website following the Gathering

Morning Coffee Break

17. Program Reports – Witness

- a) Jason Martin reported and invited delegates and guest to an information lunch today
 - i) An introductory video highlighting our witness workers and programs, was played.
 - ii) Janette Hanson, who will be taking over August 1 as Interim Director of International Witness, was also introduced.
- b) Jason Martin reported and invited delegates and guest to an information lunch today
 - i) MCBC: Winston Pratt Peace Mennonite Church Richmond, presented a time line of what Peace Menno has done in order to be a blessing to our neighbors. Five or

18. Program Reports – Indigenous-Settle Relations

- a) Steve Heinrichs was invited to answer questions regarding his work
- b) Katie Doke Sawatzky (Grace Mennonite Regina): How do you feel about the end of Bill C262?
 - ii) Steve informed us what the content of Bill C262 was and the fact that it died on the order paper on June 21 (ironically Canada's National Indigenous Day). Steve expressed his sadness at the defeat of this bill, but he also related the anger of some indigenous Leaders. Steve has expressed thanks to the Mennonite Constituency for the support of many congregations from within MC Canada to get this bill as far as it did
- c) Herb Sawatzky (Bethany Mennonite Church) Added to the comments that Steve made and encouraged us all to encourage Conservative members to adopt this direction

19. Program Reports – Common Word

- a) Arlyn Friesen Epp was invited to answer questions related to his work. There were none.

20. Table Group Conversation #2

- a) Delegates and participants were invited to discuss the question: How can Regional and Nationwide Churches support the mission, ministry and witness

of your local congregation, and better connect them to what we do together as MC Canada?

21. Acceptance of the Budget

- a) Allan Hiebert has presented the budget earlier in the program.

Moved by Joint Council, "that the FYE 2020 Budget be approved as presented." No discussion. Carried.

22. Elections

Moved by Joint Council, "That the members of the Nominating Committee be accepted as presented". No discussion. Carried.

Moved by Joint Council, "That Tony Schellenberg be elected to a second term on the Financial Policy and Audit Committee". No discussion. Carried.

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Marguerite Jack moved "That the slate of officers: Calvin Quan Moderator, Geraldine Balzer Assistant Moderator, Allan Hiebert, Secretary/Treasurer, be accepted" No discussion. Carried.

23. Future Meeting Dates and Closing Comments

- a) Calvin made closing comments and announced the dates of the next large delegate gathering.
 - i) Next MC Canada Gathering will be in the form of a Study Conference in fall of 2020 in Ontario
 - ii) Next MC Canada Delegate Gathering will be in Alberta 2022
- a) Calvin declared the Annual General Meeting portion of our Gathering closed.

Approval of Joint Council Actions from August 2019 – July 2022

NOTE: Complete Joint Council Meeting Minutes are available in CommonWord after they have been accepted. The following list does not include routine items like the adoption of minutes.

June 27, 2019

CONSENSUS: That Joint Council supports ESG exploring the renegotiating of the lease agreement for the Conference Building with the MC Canada Joint Council, MCM Board, and CMU's decision-making bodies. It is also important to ensure that other renters in the building (MDS, Paint Box) are informed and engaged at some level.

CONSENSUS: MC Canada changes its policy so that we only require only one signature from among the appointing signing authorities for cheques and other transactions.

CONSENSUS: Joint Council affirms the work of the Financial Manager and FPAC to develop internal procedures that require multiple staff to sign off for cheques and other financial transactions.

CONSENSUS: Joint Council affirms the nomination of Tony Schellenberg for election as an FPAC member for another three-year term.

CONSENSUS: Joint Council recommends the appointment of KPMG as the auditors for MC Canada for FYE 2020.

CONSENSUS: MC Canada changes its accounting method from the deferral accounting method to the fund accounting method.

CONSENSUS: Members of the Nominating Committee are recommended for renewal for a three-year term until the next Gathering in 2022.

CONSENSUS: Nominating Committee has confirmed the renewal of the terms until the next Gathering planned for 2022 for the roles of Moderator, Assistant Moderator, and Secretary-Treasurer.

CONSENSUS: Joint Council affirmed Ed Janzen to act as Parliamentarian at the Delegate Assembly.

CONSENSUS: Joint Council affirmed that Ken Warkentin will act as Recording Secretary for the AGM.

CONSENSUS: Joint Council affirmed the members of the Listening Committee as listed. The nominated members for the Listening Committee are Max Kennel (MCEC), Rachel Siemens (MCM), and Ruth Friesen (MCA).

CONSENSUS: Joint Council affirmed the members of the Resolution Committee as listed. The recommended members for the Resolutions Committee are Josh Wallace (MC Sask), Darnell Barkman (MCBC), and Monica Bock (MCM).

CONSENSUS: Every Regional Church will select one delegate, from which MC Canada will select one to represent MC Canada. The costs of the application to the GYS, MWC, vaccination, and travel costs of all five delegates will be covered through Mennonite Church Canada up to \$5000 per person.

CONSENSUS: Rather than Joint Council, the ESG will decide on selecting the one MC Canada delegate for the GYS, and submit this by January 2020.

July 1, 2019

CONSENSUS: Review the Civil Disobedience Policy draft at each Regional Church board with discussion/feedback forwarded to Gerald and Arli. Gerald and Arli will then review the Policy with the discussions that were had among those at the Regional level. They will have an updated draft for review by JC at the January 2020 meeting.

CONSENSUS: We use funds from the internally restricted church building fund (0-000-2601) to pay for a two-year commitment to our partner program Friedenhaus Ludwigshafen for \$22,000 for FYE2020 and \$11,000 for FYE2021.

Sept 21, 2019

CONSENSUS: That up to \$6000 be expended from the Discretionary Witness Support fund to support the creation of a video resource that can be used by congregations in MC Canada to understand and support the work of International Witness.

October 5-6, 2019

CONSENSUS: That the circulated letter regarding Israel/Palestine be sent to Canadian Government Minister C Freeland, signed by the MCM working group, and ask them to invite the other RC working groups to sign or send separately as well.

January 25, 2020

CONSENSUS: That the MC Canada Staff Salary Scale be increased by 2.0 % on February 1, 2020, to reflect the July/July CPI increase in the past year.

CONSENSUS: That MC Canada adopts changes to its Financial Policy to consolidate some of its restricted funds and to prepare for the change to the switch to the fund accounting method.

CONSENSUS: That Joint Council supports a proposed shift from Witness Support Teams to a model of a network of supporting congregations for Witness workers, and to developing Terms of Reference for such networks.

CONSENSUS: That Joint Council approves the adoption of the policies on Speaking Publicly and Acts of Civil Disobedience.

April 15, 2020

CONSENSUS: Joint Council approves the recommendations brought forward from FPAC on implementing the internally restricted fund consolidation process as approved at Joint Council in January.

May 23, 2020

CONSENSUS: Theoint Council recommends that the Delegate Gathering accept the financial statements and auditor's report as circulated by e-mail on May 21.

CONSENSUS: To increase the budgeted contribution for MWC Global Church Sharing Fund to \$85,00, (with \$50,000 for COVID-19 emergency response, in addition to our regular yearly contribution to MWC of \$35,000), and decrease the amount of possible subsidy to the Regional Churches to \$104,620.

CONSENSUS: Joint Council recommends that the Delegate Gathering approve the budget for MC Canada FYE2021 as circulated by e-mail on May 21, and amended with \$85,000 for the MWC Global Sharing Fund and the possible COVID-19 Regional Church Subsidy amount changed to \$104,620.

CONSENSUS: Joint Council recommends Heather Driedger for election to the Financial Policy and Audit Committee for a three-year term.

CONSENSUS: Joint Council recommends to the AGM that KPMG be appointed as auditors for FYE2021.

June 27, 2020

CONSENSUS: We approve the capital budget as presented and that this will be added to the final budget at the AGM.

CONSENSUS: Move ahead with developing the Community of Spiritual Leadership Recommendation, keeping in mind the workload for CLM/ESG, coordinating roles as a group, representation from regions, including Church educators and chaplains along with pastors, issues coming from the bottom up, ensuring diversity and inter-cultural participation.

Sept 26, 2020

CONSENSUS: Joint Council recommends that the minutes of the MC Canada AGM, held June 27, 2020 be presented for approval at the next large Delegate Session, currently scheduled for July 2022.

CONSENSUS: Betty Loewen is affirmed for another one-year term as Member-at-Large on the Executive Committee.

CONSENSUS: Joint Council indicated support for the Bethlehem Bible College proposal, with minor tweaks – signatories change and indicating more involvement with the schools.

CONSENSUS: Approval of China Anabaptist Center proposal as circulated, with funding from the Witness Donations and Bequest Fund.

October 31, 2020

CONSENSUS: The MC Canada Salary Scale be increased by 1.0% on February 1, 2021, to reflect the July/July CPI increase in the past year.

CONSENSUS: That the circulated formula, based on the decrease in actual donation revenue compared to budgeted donation revenue, be used to calculate the Regional Church Subsidy on committed contributions to MC Canada, as explained in the document "Subsidy Recommendation" circulated in the meeting docket.

CONSENSUS. Shared Revenue agreement to be tested with Regional Church boards during November, with the intent of bringing this back to the December Joint Council meeting.

CONSENSUS: MC Canada adopt the amended "Surplus Allocation Policy", circulated in the docket, as part of MC Canada's Financial Policies.

CONSENSUS: Joint Council approves the renewal of the Covenant as presented in the docket.

CONSENSUS: That we schedule the MC Canada Delegate Gathering for July 28-Aug 1, 2022, in Edmonton, AB.

January 30, 2021

MOTION: That Joint Council approve reversing the budgeted draws from the General Bequest Fund of \$31,814 and the Formation Bequest Fun of \$12,153 for FYE 2021, returning the money to the respective funds for use in future years. Motion accepted, with one member withholding consensus, but not blocking the passage of the motion.

CONSENSUS: Approval of the MC Canada Personnel Policy Manual, as circulated, while recognizing the need for updates and policy revisions to reflect much smaller staff.

March 30, 2021

CONSENSUS: That Joint Council undertakes a review of our new governance structure (adopted in October of 2017, three and a half years ago.) The purpose would be to assess what is running smoothly and what should be adjusted. A proposal from Credence and Co., recommended by the Joint Council Executive Committee was accepted.

May 15, 2021

CONSENSUS: The MC Canada – MC Manitoba Lease Agreement was accepted.

CONSENSUS: That Joint Council recommends the approval of the Financial Statements of Mennonite Church Canada for the year ended January 31, 2021, as circulated, to be presented at the Annual General Meeting of Mennonite Church Canada.

CONSENSUS: That Joint Council recommends the FYE2022 budget as presented to the Annual General Meeting for approval.

CONSENSUS: That Joint Council approves the transfer of the FYE 2021 operating surplus according to our Surplus Allocation Policy.

CONSENSUS: To present the updated draft Shared Revenue Agreement to the Regional Church boards for questions/affirmations, and return with responses to individual giving and bequest questions before discussion and decisions at the planned October Joint Council meeting.

June 19, 2021

CONSENSUS: Joint Council recommends approval of the circulated Capital budget (for MC Canada office building siding replacement) to the AGM.

CONSENSUS: That Joint Council receive the Credence Report dated June 16, 2021, and request that the Executive Committee assess Joint Council comments and recommend the next steps by mid-July, 2021.

July 13, 2021

CONSENSUS: That an agency agreement is established with Mennonite Creation Care Network so that a student intern working for MCCN in Canada can be paid through MC Canada, in keeping with legal requirements.

July 20, 2021

CONSENSUS: That steps arising from the Governance Review be undertaken, including governance training for the Joint Council, develop and adopt a Schedule of Authority as a way of clarifying roles within our structure, two sessions of executive coaching for the Executive Minister, and at least one session of facilitated conversation between EM and ESG, a facilitated conversation of Joint Council and ESG on Structure and Role Clarity to make sure our Bylaws, Operating Agreement and Schedule of Authority are in alignment. Joint Council authorizes Joint Council Executive Committee to approve up to \$20,000 in expenses to complete these steps. This amount is not included in the current approved budget and would likely be a draw on reserves.

October 2, 2021

CONSENSUS: that we extend the current MC Canada covenant by one year.

MOTION: That we accept the Capital Project for PBCI-CFP in the Philippines proposal as presented with 2 considerations: 1) examination of the business plan by someone who has knowledge and skill and 2) that there is appropriate time allocation for Jeanette and Norm's roles in fundraising for this project and that management will decide if and how to proceed. PASSED with some members opposing the motion, but not blocking it. (NOTE: As of the preparation of this report book, management has not yet decided to proceed with the project)

CONSENSUS: that Joint Council adopt the Shared Revenue Agreement, circulated May 15, with the addition of a sentence to clause 9 that reads: *These initial percentages*

account for differences in scale and historical giving among regional churches and with the understanding that the work in Part B is ongoing.

January 28-30, 2022

CONSENSUS: MC Canada Salary Scale be increased by 3.72% on February 1, 2022, to reflect the year-over-year Cost of Living increase.

CONSENSUS: Joint Council recommends to the Delegate Gathering that MC Canada's Fiscal Year-End be moved to March 31. The 2022-2023 Fiscal Year will be fourteen months with the understanding that the above concerns will be looked into and brought back to the JC at the next Joint Council meeting. A motion to change the clause indicating the fiscal year-end date in MC Canada's bylaws is prepared for the Delegate Gathering planned for July 2022. The 2022-2023 budget will be prepared for a 14-month period, in anticipation of delegates approving the change. April 9, 2022

CONSENSUS: MC Canada's Financial Policy, sub-section "Restricted Fund Policies", be changed to allow a capital withdrawal of up to 5% of the Company of 1000 Fund when required to achieve the fund's purposes.

CONSENSUS: We draw \$10,000 from the Witness Donation and Bequest Fund to cover the cost of the MWC Global Mission Fellowship.

CONSENSUS: We draw \$30,000 from the MC Canada Capital Reserve Fund to give a grant to MC Manitoba to cover a portion of the cost of the mold removal repair to the recording studio.

CONSENSUS: The 4th person on the executive committee be appointed by JC at the first meeting in Spring after all the Regional Church AGMs when all of the persons who are expected to be on JC for the next year are known.

CONSENSUS: That Joint Council retroactively appoints Betty Loewen for May 2020 to May 2021, and May 2021 to May 2022 terms.

CONSENSUS: That Joint Council formally approves the inclusion of Climate Action as a nationwide priority.

CONSENSUS: Joint Council affirms the ongoing collaborative work of the EM and ESG to develop a criterion for determining how nationwide priorities are determined and resourced (funded/staffed/volunteer).

CONSENSUS: The EM, with the assistance of two Joint Council members, will re-draft the Operating Agreement and Covenant (between MC Canada and the Regional

Churches) based on the discussions at this meeting. This re-draft will be presented to JC at our April 8-9 JC meeting.

CONSENSUS: That Joint Council affirms the work of the Joint Council Executive Committee in conducting the Executive Minister Term Review and affirms the renewal of Doug Klassen for a three-year term as Executive Minister.

April 9, 2022

CONSENSUS: To receive the final Governance Review report from Credence and Co.as written.

CONSENSUS: We affirm Betty Loewen as the 4th member of the Joint Council Executive Committee for the next year.

CONSENSUS: MC Canada permits Mennonite Heritage Archive to digitize and publish online *Der Bote*, *Intotemak*, *Mennonite Pioneer Mission Quarterly*, and *Conference of Mennonites in Canada Yearbooks*, for the public.

CONSENSUS: to appoint Josh Wallace in an interim capacity as co-chair of the Intercultural Church Steering Committee.

CONSENSUS: That a podcast, produced and owned by MC Canada, be withdrawn from CommonWord and public circulation at the request of the author, but be kept in the MHA archives under restriction.

CONSENSUS: MC Canada contributes \$50,000 to the MWC Assembly Fund and communicates with constituents to ask them to donate to match those funds.

CONSENSUS: The Gathering 2022 budget is approved as presented

CONSENSUS: JC approves the YLE budget that includes a draw of \$25,000 from the Formation Bequest Fund.

CONSENSUS: Joint Council recommends to the Delegate Gathering in July 2022, the adoption of the operating budget as presented in the docket for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023, with the amendment that an additional line under the Partnership Ministries is added for the MWC Assembly Fund for \$50,000 and that the amount for the draw from the MC Canada General Reserve Fund is changed to \$91,927.

CONSENSUS: Joint Council affirms the development of a .5 FTE Climate Action Coordinator staff position supporting the MC Canada initiatives with job description details to be developed with the Regional Churches.

CONSENSUS: MC Canada creates a new, internally restricted, fund, named the Creation Care Fund, the initial purpose of which is to provide Emission Reduction grants to member congregations of the Regional Churches, to partially fund

projects and renovations that reduce the congregation's net Green House Gas (GHG) emissions. MC Canada's Financial Policy "Internally Restricted Fund Policies" is amended by adding a sub-section to describe the new fund.

CONSENSUS: That \$100,000 be transferred from MC Canada's internally restricted Church Building Fund to the Creation Care Fund.

CONSENSUS: The description of the charitable programs carried out by MC Canada, as given in its CRA Registered Charity Information Return, be changed to reflect our current programs.

June 8, 2022

CONSENSUS: That Joint Council approves the FYE 2022-01-31 Mennonite Church Canada Financial Statements as circulated, and recommends them for approval at the 2022 Delegate Gathering in July.

CONSENSUS: That Joint Council recommends to the Delegate Gathering that KPMG LLP be appointed as auditors of Mennonite Church Canada for the fiscal year ending in 2023.

CONSENSUS: That the operating surplus for FYE 2022, be distributed according to the Surplus allocation policy: an addition of \$13,421.20 to the General Reserve Fund, an addition of \$15,115.90 to the Capital Reserve Fund, and an explicit reduction of the Regional Church budgeted contributions of MCEC - \$7,313.98, MCM - \$4,259.99, MCSASK - \$1,392.72, MCA - \$1,129.97, and MCBC - \$1,019.25

CONSENSUS: That Joint Council recommends the circulated Capital Budget for adoption by the delegates at Gathering 2022. Funds for payment will be drawn from the Capital Reserve Budget.

CONSENSUS: That Joint Council affirms the 9 motions as noted on p. 93 of the Docket to present to delegates for approval at the Delegate Gathering and AGM 2022.

CONSENSUS: That Joint Council adopts the Operating Agreement, as amended, with the understanding that this is a living document, to be reviewed when Section 12 is updated in October 2022.

CONSENSUS: With the CLM, the Executive Minister and representatives from MCUSA will write an addendum to the Misconduct Policy that provides clear definitions for non-sexual misconduct. This addendum will be attached to the current Misconduct Policy until the new Misconduct Policy is approved (hopefully, next year).

Gathering 2022 motions for Delegate approval:

Abbotsford, B.C., June 29, 2019

1. Minutes of Delegate Gathering 2019

Motion: That we accept the minutes of the Delegate Gathering held June 28 to July 1, 2019.

2. Minutes of Delegate Gathering 2020 (AGM)

Motion: That we accept the minutes of the Delegate Gathering (AGM) held June 27, 2020.

3. Minutes of Delegate Gathering 2021 (AGM)

Motion: That we accept the minutes of the Delegate Gathering (AGM) held June 19, 2021.

4. Approval of Joint Council actions from June 2019 – June 2022

Motion: That we approve all actions taken by the Joint Council June 27, 2019 to June 8, 2022.

5. Adoption of Financial Statements FYE 2022

Motion: That we accept the audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2022 as printed.

6. Approval of Bylaw change to move fiscal year-end to March 31 of each calendar year

Motion: That the Mennonite Church Canada General Operating By-law be amended by changing "PART XI – Operational Matters", clause 31 "Fiscal Year" to read as follows:

31.1 MC Canada's fiscal year shall end on the 31st day of March in each calendar year.

7. Approval of Financial Auditor for FYE 2023

Motion: That we appoint KPMG LLP as auditors for the fiscal year 2022-2023.

8. Approval of Slate

Motion: That we accept the 2022-2023 slate as presented.

9. Approval of Budget for FYE 2023

Motion: That we accept the Operating Fund budget, the Capital Reserve Fund Budget, and the Formation Bequest Fund Budget for the fiscal year 2022-2023 as printed.

Nominating Committee Report to Gathering 2022

Role of the Nominating Committee (according to MC Canada bylaws)

- 14.2. The Nominating Committee shall:
- i) in advance of a Delegate Gathering where elections are to be held, use its best efforts to prepare a slate of nominees consisting of one (1) nominee for each elected position that needs to be filled;
- 15.1. The Nominating Committee will receive further nominations if:
- a) such nomination is endorsed by five (5) voting delegates;
 - b) the nominee has agreed to stand for the elected position; and
 - c) such nomination is presented to the Nominating Committee at least twenty-four (24) hours before the Delegate Gathering at which the election is scheduled to take place.

Positions to be elected by delegates

Executive Committee of Joint Council (two-year term)

- Moderator – Geraldine Balzer (MC Sask)
- Assistant Moderator – Bruce Baergen (MCA)
- Secretary-Treasurer – Paul Gilbert (MCEC)

Financial Policy and Audit Committee (three-year term)

- Incumbent, eligible for renewal (nominated by Joint Council, as per the bylaws)
- Tony Schellenberg (MCM)

Nominating Committee (until 2024 Gathering)

- To be presented to Joint Council on July 28 for approval and amendment to Gathering Motions
- Gladys Bender (MCEC), Incumbent, eligible for renewal
- Randy Hildebrand (MCM)
- Allen Harder (MCBC)
- Joanie Neufeldt (MCA)
- To be confirmed (MC Sask)

Other Nominations

Further nominations for the Joint Council Executive and Nominating Committee will be received until **9 a.m. (MDT) on Saturday, July 30, 2022**, in accordance with the bylaws (above). Nominations should be sent to nominations@mennonitechurch.ca.

Other Appointments

Listening Committee

- Hyejung Jessie Yum (MCEC)
- Len Rempel (MC Sask)
- Kennedy Froese (MCM)

Resolutions Committee

- Vince Friesen (MCA)
- Darnell Barkman (MCBC)
- Kendall Jongejan Harder (MCEC)

Respectfully Submitted by the Nominating Committee (2019 - Gathering 2022)

- Gladys Bender (MCEC), Marguerite Jack (MCA), Waldo Neufeld (MCBC)
- Randy Hildebrand (MCM) – completing term for Eric Rempel
- Terry Stefaniuk (MC Sask) – completing term for Anna Rehan

Nomination Election Slate



Bruce Baergen

NOMINATED – Assistant Moderator

Bruce is a partner and general manager with Western Canadian Software Inc. in Edmonton, Alta., a software company specializing in writing and implementing enterprise resource planning (ERP). He is a member of Edmonton First Mennonite Church, where he has been the Choir Director for over 30 years. He has also served as church moderator and as a deacon in addition to numerous other volunteer positions. Bruce has just finished 15 years serving on the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary board, where he served as the chair for the last 10 years. Prior to that he was chair of the CMBC board in

Winnipeg during the creation of Canadian Mennonite University. Bruce and his wife Debbie have three married children and two grandchildren.



Geraldine Balzer

NOMINATED - Moderator

Geraldine has deep roots in the Mennonite Church and cannot remember a time when the life of the church did not play a significant role in her world. She is currently a member of Nutana Park Mennonite Church in Saskatoon. She is an alumna of and has served on the boards of Rosthern Junior College and Conrad Grebel University College. Geraldine brings a deep commitment to the church and offers her gifts and skills in governance and strategic planning to the ongoing work of Mennonite Church Canada, envisioning a nationwide organization that supports the work of a diverse group of congregations who

have covenanted locally, regionally and nationwide to work together, embracing cultural, linguistic, ethnic and theological diversity. Geraldine holds an MA from the University of Waterloo and a Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of Saskatchewan. She currently works as a professor of education at the University of Saskatchewan.



Paul Gilbert

NOMINATED - Treasurer, Chair of Financial, Policy and Audit Committee (FPAC)

Paul has an honours degree in business administration from the University of Western Ontario and holds a CPA, CA designation. He has worked in the financial services industry for all three current major Canadian life insurance companies and Scotiabank, in financial, operational and project management leadership roles. He is a member of Erb Street Mennonite Church in Waterloo. He has volunteered as a board member with MCC Ontario and MCC Canada since 2007, most recently serving as Board Chair of MCC Canada from 2018 through 2021.

Joint Council



Andrea de Avila

Regional representative,
Mennonite Church
Manitoba



Allan Hiebert

Secretary-
Treasurer,
Mennonite
Church Canada



Calvin Quan

Moderator,
Mennonite
Church Canada



Geraldine Balzer

Assistant
Moderator,
Mennonite Church
Canada



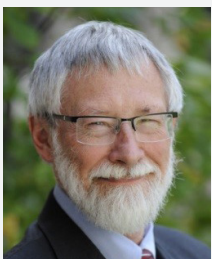
Arli Klassen

Moderator,
Mennonite Church
Eastern Canada



Terry Stefaniuk

Moderator,
Mennonite Church
Saskatchewan



Gerald Gerbrandt

Moderator,
Mennonite Church
Manitoba



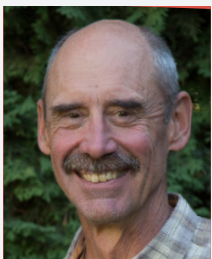
**Margaret Kruger-
Harder**

Regional
representative,
Mennonite Church
Alberta



Brenda Tiessen-Wiens

Moderator,
Mennonite Church
Alberta



Garry Gruneau

Moderator,
Mennonite Church
Manitoba



Betty Loewen

Regional
representative,
Mennonite Church
British Columbia



**Yoel Trakoon
Masyawong**

Regional
representative,
Mennonite
Church Eastern
Canada

Executive Ministers Group



Doug Klassen

Executive Minister,
Mennonite Church
Canada



Michael Pahl

Executive Minister,
Mennonite Church
Manitoba



**Josh Wallace
(interim)**

Executive Minister,
Mennonite
Church
Saskatchewan



Garry Janzen

Executive Minister,
Mennonite Church
British Columbia



**Leah Reesor-
Keller**

Moderator,
Mennonite Church
Eastern Canada



**Tim Wiebe-
Neufeld**

Executive Minister,
Mennonite Church
Alberta

Generative and Strategic Planning

Mennonite Church Canada
Gathering 2022
Report Book



Mennonite Church Alberta

Vision Summary

Mennonite Church Alberta is a fellowship of 12 congregations from across Alberta, representing various cultural groups united by our faith in Jesus Christ. Our congregations worship weekly in 5 different languages. These churches represent approximately 1000 members, and are located in Treaties 6 and 7, from Edmonton in the north to Springridge, Pincher Creek in the south with most congregations in or near the cities of Edmonton and Calgary.

Vision and Purpose

Our **vision** is to be a community of Anabaptist-Mennonite congregations worshipping the one holy and loving God. Joined together in Jesus Christ, we are guided by the Holy Spirit and scripture as we seek to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace. Together we seek to embody Jesus Christ in the world.

Our purpose is

- To promote the spiritual wellbeing and the unity of the Spirit among member congregations.
- To provide mutual assistance in the work of the Kingdom of God.
- To encourage a Christian faith from an Anabaptist-Mennonite Perspective.
- To provide an avenue of engagement between the congregations of the region, between regional churches in Canada, with affiliated organizations, and with other faith traditions.
- To provide an avenue of service within our membership and to those who are not within a member church organization.
- To provide assistance to small groups or congregations who are not able to sustain themselves.

(MCA Constitution November 11, 2021)

Where we've been: We are currently in Year 3 of E3: Our Three Year Action plan. *Encountering, Embracing, Embodying Christ in life, community, the world.*

Year 3 Focus Questions:

- How are we being invited to pour ourselves out as the Body of Christ for the world, embodying Christ's healing and hope in a hurting world?
- How do we open ourselves to recognize our encounter with the risen Christ, perhaps seeing Christ in unexpected places and in unexpected ways?
- How are we being challenged by these encounters to embrace something that may be unfamiliar, or uncomfortable, but may ultimately be healing and hopeful for us?

Where we're going: We're presently developing the next focus phase for MCA, looking at 3 statements to help us think about our identity and that can guide the activities of MCA Committees and Staff.

The three we've been testing/developing are:

Supporting Congregations, Nurturing Connections, Celebrating Faith in Action

Ministries we share

- **Camp Valaqua:** Continues with the simple mission *Discover God in Creation*, creating a place where people can experience God together under the tall, tall trees.
- **Support for Pastors and Congregational Leaders:** Walking alongside congregations in periods of transition.
- **Student Bursaries:** Helping our youth pursue an Anabaptist Mennonite post-secondary education.
- **North Edmonton Ministry:** Together with the Mission and Service committee Suzanne Gross has been exploring how a re-visioned interfaith ministry could serve MCA congregations across Alberta.
- **A Palestine-Israel Network:** A working group, connecting with the MC Canada PIN is supporting the Palestinian people under Israel's occupation through advocacy and action.



Mennonite Church British Columbia

A New Ministry Structure

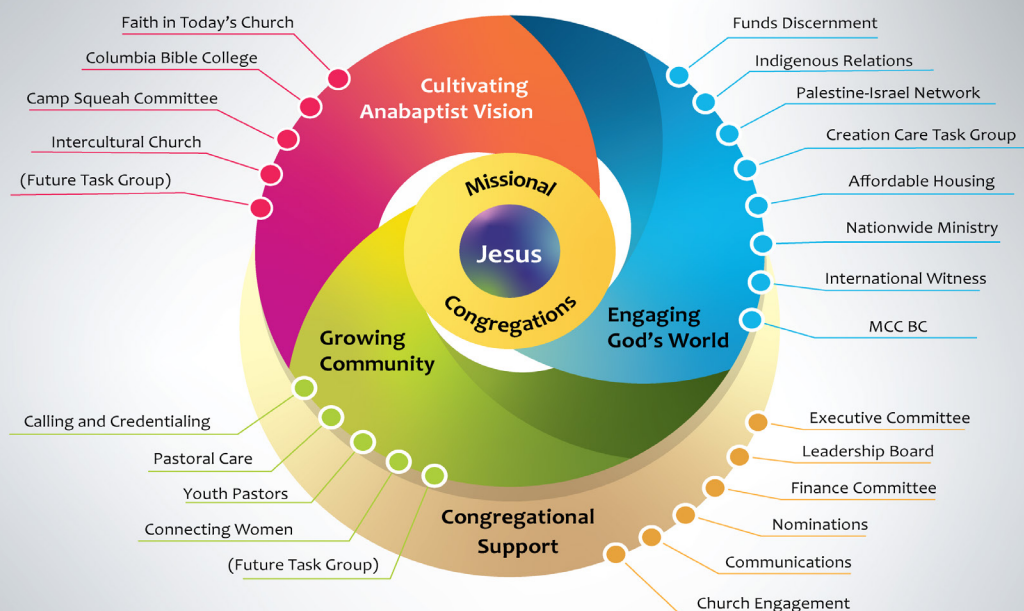
Mennonite Church British Columbia (MCBC) is a faith community of Christian churches with a passionate allegiance to Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Our purpose is to enable congregations to, individually and collectively, engage most fully in the mission of Christ. We are called by God to be followers 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.

Our MCBC ministry is centred on Jesus and is carried out by our local congregations who have called us to these ministries and from whom participants for these ministries are called. Jesus is the centre of our faith, our lives, and our work; we are centred in Jesus. We proceed from this centre to do our work in three key areas:

1. Cultivating Anabaptist Vision;
2. Engaging God’s World;
3. Growing Community.

The ministries within the three core areas happen through task groups which are formed as ministries are imagined. These task groups provide opportunities for individuals from different congregations to work together on tasks of common interest. This new structure allows task groups of all ages to do their work freeing up the Leadership Board to consider broader congregational and regional church challenges and opportunities. Attached is a graphic that shows this ministry and its interconnectedness.

2022 MCBC Ministry Graphic





Mennonite Church Eastern Canada

Vision Summary

105 congregations | 20 languages of worship

Identity

Mennonite Church Eastern Canada is a diverse community

Transformed by the love of God

Inspired by the hope we find in Jesus

Called to action by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Purpose

We come together as a regional church to:

- **Energize congregations** in worship, discipleship and mission
- **Encourage leaders** of hope, vision and transformation
- **Embody God's reconciling ministry** for all creation

Values

Beloved-ness, Spirituality, Transformation, Community, Hospitality, Peace & Justice

Vision

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

Priorities for 2022-2027

- **Navigating Change:** Fostering a culture of learning, innovation and adaptability to equip the church to navigate a season of change. This includes exploring new expressions of following Jesus and being church together.
- **Developing Leaders:** Strengthening leadership and forming faith, equipping individuals to pursue their vocations of church planting, pastoral ministry and lay leadership.
- **Intergenerational Discipleship:** Collaborating with congregations and ministry partners in support of intergenerational discipleship and faith formation, and engaging youth and young adults in leadership development opportunities.
- **Embracing Diversity:** Inviting and challenging the church to explore the variety and richness of God's people. This will require transformation of our hearts, minds, policies and structures as we live out our calling to be a diverse, inclusive and intercultural church body.
- **Seeking Peace and Justice:** Supporting and resourcing congregations to engage peace and justice issues, grounded in Anabaptist-Mennonite theology. Indigenous-Settler relationships, climate action, building intercultural competence and undoing racism are focus areas for this time.

Current Ministries

- Church Leadership Office
- Mission Office
- Truth and Reconciliation Working Group, Palestine-Israel Working Group, Climate/Sustainability Working Group (in development)



Mennonite Church Manitoba

Vision Summary

Mennonite Church Manitoba is 37 full member congregations and two affiliate congregations covenanted together to share resources and ministry regionally. These churches represent nearly 7,000 members, and are located in Treaties 1, 2, 3, and 5 across Manitoba.

Vision, Mission, and Values

Our **vision** is to be a community of congregations unified in Jesus Christ, living a biblical Anabaptist faith, together presenting Jesus Christ to the world.

Our **mission**: proclaiming the gospel of Christ; fostering relationships of mutual accountability; promoting Christian education; calling, nurturing and providing leadership; planting and nurturing new congregations; planning joint worship and faith celebrations; and dialoguing and working with congregations, conferences and other denominations.

Our **values**: community; love, care, and nurture; mutual accountability; doctrine; discernment; evangelism; discipleship; social concern; and peace.

(MCM vision, mission, and values adopted 1998)

Ministries and Working Groups

Our shared regional **ministries** (each is overseen by a staff director and includes an advisory committee):

- **Leadership Ministries**: supporting pastors and other spiritual leaders in their ministries, credentialing and resourcing them, and helping churches find pastors.
- **Congregational Ministries**: supporting congregations in their “internal” ministries, including their worship, faith formation, and congregational care.
- **Mission Ministries**: supporting congregations in their “external” ministries, including both local mission and connecting them to regional, nationwide, and international mission.
- **Camps with Meaning**: our camping and retreat ministries at Camp Assiniboia and Camp Koinonia.

Our current regional **working groups** (volunteer members from across our congregations focused on particular areas of special interest and need, with staff liaison):

- **Woven**: providing support for women in MCM and beyond through resourcing, facilitating conversations, and networking.
- **Palestine-Israel Network**: supporting the Palestinian people under Israel’s occupation through advocacy and action.
- **Climate Action Working Group**: engaging congregations toward a just transition by facilitating conversations and providing resourcing for advocacy and action.
- **Mennonite Coalition for Indigenous Solidarity**: a partnership with MCC Manitoba, engaging congregations toward reconciliation and solidarity with our Indigenous neighbours by facilitating conversations and providing resourcing for advocacy and action.

(MCM ministries and working groups underwent some restructuring in 2021)



Mennonite Church Saskatchewan

Vision, Mission, Purpose and Programs

Mennonite Church Saskatchewan is a community of 22 Mennonite congregations across Saskatchewan who have covenanted together to be Christ Centred and Sent. We are large and small, rural and urban, old and young, but most importantly, we are a family of believers learning together what it means to be disciples of Jesus Christ.

Vision, Mission, and Purpose

We affirm Mennonite Church Canada's Vision 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."

We have been "called to here" in the ongoing work of deepening our walk with Christ, with each other and with our neighbours.

Programs

Together the congregations of MC Sask take part in the following programs:

- **Pastoral Leadership Commission:** supporting and resourcing pastoral leaders and congregations in transition.
- **Youth Ministry:** tending to the care and formation of young people through Mega Menno events, youth leader resourcing, and the Saskatchewan Mennonite Youth Organization (SMYO).
- **Walking the Path:** fostering involvement between MC Sask congregations and Indigenous peoples and advocating for right relationships between Indigenous peoples and other Canadians.
- **Climate Emergency Response Team:** educating and empowering MC Sask congregations in witness to the impacts of climate change and advocacy and action for the integrity of creation and justice.
- **Church Planting:** supporting emerging congregations and established congregations trying new things.
- **Spirituality Resource Team:** resourcing congregations to deepen encounter and engagement with God corporately and personally.
- **Camps:** MC Sask partners with Camp Elim, Youth Farm Bible Camp, and Shekinah Retreat Centre, providing support and oversight to promote the formation and renewal.

Guiding Understandings for Nationwide Decision-Building and Operations

When building decisions around nationwide programs, staffing, and budgeting, we seek to be guided by the following understandings. These also serve as guiding operational understandings.

1. Centred on Jesus

- How is this initiative or action shaped by our Mennonite understanding of Jesus and the good news he proclaimed? How does it grow out of our desire to be faithful followers of Jesus in his teachings and way of life?
- How does it reflect Mennonite values which we believe grow out of this Jesus-centeredness, values like nonviolence, simplicity, concern for the vulnerable, communal discernment, desire for the common good, pursuit of a just peace, and so on?

2. Focused on congregations

- How does this initiative or action support and resource our local congregations, which we believe to be the primary locus of the church's ministry in the world? How does it strengthen the worship, learning, care, service, outreach, witness, and leadership of our congregations? How does it nurture the overall spiritual health of our congregations?
- How does it coordinate our local congregations, enabling them to work together for these goals?

3. Rooted in relationships

- How is this initiative or action grounded in local and direct relationships, relationships with people "on the ground" and those most impacted by the initiative or action?
- How is it connected into relationships local congregations have within their immediate communities, relationships regional churches have with regional bodies, and the nationwide church with national and international bodies?
- How does it nurture these relationships in meaningful, non-utilitarian ways?

4. Leaning into partnerships

- How does this initiative or action lean into already existing partnerships with like-minded people and organizations at the local, regional, and nationwide levels? How does it create new partnerships?
- How does our role in these partnerships effectively use our distinctive gifts as a church (theology, liturgy, ethics, service) while celebrating and relying on the distinctive gifts of our partners?
- How can these partnerships be mutually beneficial to accomplish shared goals?

5. Sharing our power

- How does this initiative or action utilize the power we possess to influence change in order to reflect the above understandings?
 - How does it empower our local churches and their members to influence change to reflect these understandings?
 - How does it empower those who are often marginalized and thus disempowered in these ways?
 - How does it enable an equilibrium of power so there is an appropriate "push from the bottom/pull from the top" dynamic for this change, which we believe best reflects our Mennonite understandings of leadership and the nature of the church?
-



OUR VISION

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

STATEMENT OF IDENTITY AND PURPOSE

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

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

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

* Once known as area conferences, Mennonite Church Canada is making a move to shift its language and terminology toward area church as an act of recognition and affirmation that church happens at many levels beyond the congregation, including the regional. This shift is in keeping with having already named ourselves officially as Mennonite Church British Columbia, Mennonite Church Alberta, Mennonite Church Saskatchewan, Mennonite Church Manitoba, Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, and Mennonite Church Canada.

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OUR PRIORITIES:

To engage the world with the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ; with God's help we will:

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

CORE PROCESSES FOR EACH PRIORITY

Form a People of God by:

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

Become a global church by:

- Strengthening our capacity to engage with and learn from the diversity that God nurtures among us and beyond us;
- Committing to reconciling ministry "from across the street to around the world;"
- Nurturing a growing accountability to the global communion of faith, especially to the community of Anabaptists;
- Embracing and fostering our Mennonite identity as a perspective of Christian faith and not as a culture or ethnic identity;

Grow leaders for the church by:

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

See you at Gathering!

Thanks to regional church administrators,
delegates and volunteers!

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