



## Mennonite Church Saskatchewan 2023 Annual Report

Mennonite Church Saskatchewan (MC Sask) is a family of 21 congregations, covenanted together as Christ Centred & Sent. We prayerfully support one another, joining together in ministry alongside the other congregations of Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite World Conference, trusting that as we do God's healing and hope flows through us to all the world.

*“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. (John 15:12-14)*

2023 again was a year of changes and adjustments for MC Sask. Gary Peters consented to serve as Interim Executive Minister. Kirsten Hamm-Epp resumed her role as Youth Minister. Josh Wallace continues as Congregational Engagement Minister and Marianne Siemens keeps everything organized as Office Administrator



Our congregations, too, were in the midst of change. Many congregations are still adjusting ministries after the restriction and effects of COVID-19. Also, we have had numerous pastoral changes which are described below. As individual congregations and as a Regional Church we are attempting to understand what it means to be faithful and Christ-centred in today’s world of polarized thinking and the many and various priorities that demand our time and energy.

In March, we were hosted by Bethany Manor and online for our Annual Delegate Sessions. We gathered with the theme, “Rooted in Good Soil.” David Boshart, president of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary encouraged and challenged us to faithfulness.

MC Sask affirmed the calls of Rodney Hennessey (Grace MC) and Curtis Wiens (Aberdeen MC), joining with their congregations to ordain them to pastoral ministry. We rejoiced together with Mount Royal MC in the conclusion of the faithful service of Garth and Claire Ewert Fisher and in the appointment of Don Froese as interim Pastor. MRMC also called Evan Bueckert to serve as interim part-time associate pastor. Likewise, we gave thanks for the years of faithful ministry by Lois Bukar at Zion MC and for the installation of Zachary Stefaniuk as its pastor. Andrea Enns-Gooding concluded her time at Rosthern Mennonite Church.

We regret the withdrawal of Laird Mennonite Church from our fellowship. We wish them God’s blessings as they discern their faithful path of discipleship.

Throughout the past year we have planned and scheduled events to support the ministries of our congregations. In May, pastors were invited to participate in a daylong retreat during which Claire Ewert-Fisher led the sessions focusing on prayer for our congregations and our regional church. In October, Carol Penner, professor at Conrad Grebel College led us in a workshop for worship leaders.

The Youth Program under the recommenced leadership of Kirsten Hamm-Epp continues to nurture the youth. Josh Wallace, Congregation Engagement Minister, is working on ways to energize our congregations through his involvement in the Ministries Commission and the new opportunities presented by the New Leaf Network and MC Canada’s Intercultural Church Steering Committee.

We continue to work on the Camping Ministry Study to review and strengthen our shared ministry through MC Sask’s three camps (Camp Elim, Youth Farm Bible Camp, and Shekinah Retreat Center).

Through transitions, expected and unexpected, joyful and sorrowful, the God of peace remains faithfully near to us, supporting each of our congregations in MC Sask and tenderly caring for all the world. Thank you for partnering with us in this work of peace.

With prayers for peace, healing, and joy,

*Gary Peters, Kirsten Hamm-Epp, Josh Wallace, & Marianne Siemens (MC Sask Staff)*