

“For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.” 1 Cor. 3:11



Report Book

Assembly 2007

Abbotsford, British Columbia July 3-6

**Mennonite Church Canada
REPORT 2007**

Volume 43

Sessions: July 3-6, 2007

Abbotsford, British Columbia

Editor: Dan Dyck

Design & layout: Katharina Nuss

Logo design: Lynette Wiebe



**Mennonite
Church
Canada**

600 Shaftesbury Blvd
Winnipeg MB R3P 0M4
Toll free: 1-866-888-6785

T: 204-888-6781

F: 204-831-5675

E: office@mennonitechurch.ca

W: www.mennonitechurch.ca

CONTENTS

GENERAL

How to use this Report Book	4
Abbreviations	4
Words from the Moderator	5
Words from the General Secretary	7
Message from the Denominational Minister	12
Faith and Life Committee (FLC)	13
Assembly 2006 Actions and Follow-up	14
General Board Actions – 2006	16
Mennonite Church USA (MC USA)	22
Mennonite World Conference (MWC)	23
Mennonite Church Alberta (MCA)	24
Mennonite Church British Columbia (MCBC)	25
Mennonite Church Eastern Canada (MCEC)	26
Mennonite Church Manitoba (MCM)	27
Mennonite Church Saskatchewan (MC Sask)	28
Mennonite Church Canada Organizational Chart	29

FORMATION

Christian Formation	30
Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS)	35
Canadian Mennonite University (CMU)	36
Columbia Bible College (CBC)	37
Conrad Grebel University College (CGUC)	38
Canadian Association of Mennonite Schools (CAMS)	39
Mennonite Publishing Network (MPN)	40
Mennonite Creation Care Network (MCCN)	41

WITNESS

Christian Witness	42
Canadian Women in Mission (CWM)	47
Mennonite Central Committee Canada (MCCC)	48
Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT)	49
Mennonite Disaster Service Region V Inc (MDS)	50
Mennonite Men (MM)	51

SUPPORT SERVICES

Support Services	52
Mennonite Foundation of Canada (MFC)	55
Canadian Mennonite (CM)	56

FINANCE

(Financial Policy & Audit Committee–FPAC)

Management Report	57
Treasurer’s Report	58
Financial Operating Statement Summary	59

DISCERNMENT

Discernment Guide	60
MC Canada Budget	61
Councils and Committees	63
Nominees	64
Affirmation Statements	68
Letter to the Government (2006 follow-up)	70
Audited Financial Statements	73

OTHER

Bylaws	91
Assembly 2007 Agenda	104

HOW TO USE THIS REPORT BOOK

This report book is an integrated presentation of information in keeping with our desire to become a more seamless church.

This book contains the reporting materials reflecting our work of the past year. In the margins, you will find an “at-a-glance” roadmap. The roadmap attempts to mirror the way Mennonite Church Canada is organized, by integrating the reports of affiliated national and bi-national entities into related activity areas. Highlighted areas indicate where you are on the roadmap.

For example, reports from WITNESS and their related agencies (CWM, CPT, MCC, MDS) appear in the WITNESS section. Reports from schools, Mennonite Publishing Network and the Denominational Minister appear in the FORMATION section. The SUPPORT SERVICES section recognizes and represents the important aspect of administration work that under-girds everything, and includes reports from

affiliated entities that relate to the support of broader programs and initiatives (e.g. Mennonite Foundation of Canada, *Canadian Mennonite*). Then we move into the discernment topics. Please read through these discussion topics carefully and come prepared to participate.

A basic schedule for the proceedings can be found on the back cover of this Report Book. An agenda is provided on pages 102-103.

The reports and stories in this report book represent the people and ministries in the Mennonite Church Canada family. Together, they tell the larger story of God at work in the world as we align ourselves with God’s purpose.

We hope that you find this report book to be a helpful way of visualizing relationships and getting informed.

ABBREVIATIONS

ACOM.....Area Church Only Membership
 AMBS Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary
 AMIGOSMennonite World Conference Youth Committee
 BMC.....Brethren Mennonite Council for Gay,
 Bisexual and Transgendered Interests
 BCMB British Columbia Mennonite Brethren
 CAMSCanadian Association of Mennonite Schools
 CBC.....Columbia Bible College
 CCC..... Canadian Council of Churches
 CCCC Canadian Council of Christian Charities
 CFCChristian Formation Council
 CGUC.....Conrad Grebel University College
 CMU Canadian Mennonite University
 COF Confession of Faith
 CPT Christian Peacemaker Teams
 CWC Christian Witness Council
 CWM..... Canadian Women in Mission
 EFC Evangelical Fellowship of Canada
 FLC..... Faith and Life Committee
 FPACFinancial Policy and Audit Committee
 FYE..... Fiscal Year End
 GAMEO Global Anabaptist Mennonite Encyclopedia Online
 GBGeneral Board

GMF..... Global Mennonite Fellowship
 IMPaCT International Mennonite Pastors Coming Together
 JEC Joint Executive Council
 KPMG Auditors for Mennonite Church Canada
 M/S/C/..... Moved/Seconded/Carried
 MCMennonite Church
 MC SASK Mennonite Church Saskatchewan
 MCA..... Mennonite Church Alberta
 MCA..... Mennonite Camping Association
 MCBC Mennonite Church British Columbia
 MCC Mennonite Central Committee
 MCCC.....Mennonite Central Committee Canada
 MCECMennonite Church Eastern Canada
 MCM Mennonite Church Manitoba
 MDS Mennonite Disaster Service
 MEDA Mennonite Economic Development Agency
 MFCMennonite Foundation of Canada
 MM..... Mennonite Men
 MMA Mennonite Mutual Aid
 MOU Memorandum of Understanding
 MPN..... Mennonite Publishing Network
 MSACMModerators, Secretaries and Conference Ministers
 MW Mennonite Women
 MWC.....Mennonite World Conference
 P2P.....Person to Person
 RJC..... Rosthern Junior College
 SSC Support Services Council



WORDS FROM THE MODERATOR

Introduction

Welcome to the 8th annual delegate assembly of Mennonite Church Canada. It is a joy and a privilege to be part of this community of faith and, together with you, to live in faithfulness to Jesus Christ, who is our foundation. “Built to last” is certainly true as we look back over 2,000 years of the church of Jesus Christ, and as we look beyond our borders to the global church. Truly we are part of a rich, vibrant church which receives its life, purpose and vision from the triune God who was and is and is to come.

God through Jesus Christ has been faithful to us and calls us to faithfulness in being the church here in this place at this time in Canada. As moderator of MC Canada, I have a special privilege of working together with excellent and gifted staff and General Board members to actively engage the life of our denomination. I see God at work in our church, through our congregations, area churches and in our national church.

We continue to build on the foundation that has already been set through the work of God in Christ and also through the work of the saints through history and into our day. Improvisation, which we know about from music and drama, is an instructive way of thinking about our work as the church. It is our challenge to move into the future, improvising our part of the building project, relying on what has already been built to give us insight into how we are to proceed. We trust that through the power of the Spirit of God, what we build will also last.

General Board

Good things are happening in our church and we want to celebrate them. As you read the report from Jack Suderman, our General Secretary and the other reports from our councils, area churches and sister organizations, I trust you, too, will be encouraged and grateful to God who is doing a good work in our midst.

The report on “General Board actions” (pages 14-19) gives you an overview of the decisions which have been made on your behalf by the board on a variety of issues and areas of ministry. We meet four times a year in person – July, November, March and April. I have very much appreciated the commitment to Christ and the church, the hard work and dedication with which members of the General Board take on the work that is assigned to them. It truly is a joy to work with them. I want to also highlight a couple of other areas of involvement:

Joint Executive Committee (JEC)

Mennonite Church Canada continues to have a close working relationship with Mennonite Church USA and one of these connections is our Joint Executive Committee. Twice a year the executive committees of our two national churches meet to share with each other about our respective churches and attend to our partnership.

We have spent time in the last year revising the ‘Partnership Covenant’ between our two churches as a way of bringing clarity to our relationship. The final draft has now been accepted by our two national boards. The work of Mennonite Publishing Network has also been a high priority agenda item for us over the last number of years and we continue to give attention to our responsibilities in this partnership activity. We are very pleased that



Henry Krause, Moderator

**general
formation
witness
support services
finance
discernment**



MPN is becoming financially viable and continues to provide valuable printed resources to our churches. We also share in the ownership of AMBS and continue to work together to understand how we can strengthen our relationship with these two shared ministries given our asymmetric relationship with each in our national church structures.

Finally, we are excited about the prospect of a joint gathering in July, 2008, during which we will have opportunity for worship and study addressing joint concerns of our national churches within a global context.

Moderators, Secretaries and Conference Ministers (MSCM)

This grouping of church leaders meets in March as part of the Leadership Assembly and is a coming together of MC Canada and area church moderators, leading staff persons and area church ministers. This gathering is an important component in our joint ministries of the national and area churches. During our time together, we hear from each other about the joys and struggles of the area churches and also spend time in discernment of shared agenda items. This group provides important counsel that is vital to the work of the General Board.

The agenda items this year included:

- a) an afternoon spent in conversation with our College and Seminary presidents (Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Conrad Grebel University College, Canadian Mennonite University, Columbia Bible College) discerning together our needs for leadership development in our congregations;
- b) fulfilling the role of being part of the reference council for the Faith and Life Committee of MC Canada by working through agenda on which the FLC has invited input;
- c) receiving clarity from area churches and giving further counsel on the way in which 'Area Church only member' (ACOM) congregations relate to the national and area churches;
- d) discernment regarding our discussion and response to sexuality issues by hearing about concerns and receiving counsel from various area churches;
- e) spending time giving attention to a 'Partnership covenant' and 'Operating agreements' which will help clarify the relationship between the national and area churches.

Conclusion

Thank you again for allowing me and those on the General Board to serve you. I trust that as we meet together in Abbotsford, we will continue to be encouraged by what God is doing in our churches, that we will be challenged to remain faithful in our calling and that we will enthusiastically continue to build on the foundation which has been given to us which we believe is 'built to last'.

–Henry Krause

general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment



WORDS FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY

Built to Last:

For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 3:11).

Our scripture text reminds us that we are in the construction business. Other verses in this passage indicate that we are also gardeners and a field in which God plants. Whether we are watering, planting, sowing, being sown, or building, the goal of the activity is to build a people-temple where God will find a welcoming habitat (1 Cor. 3:16). With God's presence and Jesus as the foundation, a people-temple is being established, nourished, and sent to engage the world with the gospel.

The letter to the Corinthians does nothing to hide problems embedded in that church. It describes a church with divisions, immaturity and addiction to milk rather than solid food; a church that is enchanted with the wisdom of the age rather than the wisdom of the "foolishness" of the cross. In spite of its evident weaknesses, it is the church of God, the body of Christ, with the priestly vocation of embodying and employing the gifts that the Spirit has so lavishly poured out on its people. We can easily identify with inconsistencies of the Corinthians, but we are also aware of the spiritual gifts among us, and therefore it is an encouraging text for us, too.

Thank You:

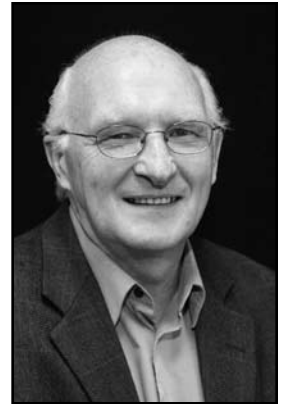
I must begin by saying Thank You. Thanks to the hard-working, efficient, and creative staff of Mennonite Church Canada. All of them, under the capable direction of the Executive staff, engage ministry for us all with a level of excellence and positive spirit worthy of praise. Thanks to our mission workers in so many parts of the world. These fine folk represent us in multiple and difficult contexts around the world and do so self-sacrificially and with sensitivity. Thanks to the hard-working volunteers who spend so much time and energy providing direction and counsel on the boards, councils, and committees of Mennonite Church Canada. Your dedication and commitment is indeed an inspiration to many. Thanks to the many related organizations that extend the reach of our ministry into nooks and crannies of need that make the church effectively present in the lives of so many. And thank you to the Area Churches, congregations, individuals, and corporations that partner, faithfully pray, and financially support ministry and by doing so effectively allow the gospel of Christ to be present in many contexts at home and around the world. Expressions of gratitude for all of you reach our ears daily.



Gord Alton presents an "I survived the Listening Tour" t-shirt to General Secretary Robert J. Suderman on the completion of the God's People Now! Tour

God's People Now: Face to Face with Mennonite Church Canada:

We are grateful to the congregations for the hospitality extended to us in our visits across Canada in 2006. You gifted us with stories of your experience of being God's People Now, and with much wisdom that has grown out of this experience. As a small token of appreciation we have compiled your words of wisdom, along with reflections on what we have heard and



*Robert J. Suderman,
General Secretary*

Staff:

Robert J. Suderman,
General Secretary;
Karen Peters, Executive
Assistant

general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment



seen, in a book dedicated to all of you. Mennonite Publishing Network has published this book and it is available here at the Assembly for a modest price. The book is entitled: ***God's People Now: Face to Face with Mennonite Church Canada***. You will see and hear yourself and your neighbours in this book. We encourage delegates to solicit orders for the book from your congregation and come to the assembly prepared to buy as many as needed. Thanks to all who made this book possible. It is an important collection of wisdom and experience of our people.

Finances, Budgets, and Strategic Plans:



The generosity of our people has again shone this year. We are grateful that you responded strongly to the financial updates you received in December/06. We ended the year with a small surplus due to generous donations and the excellent and careful management of expenditures. Overall donations are up considerably this year. For this we are grateful. However, donations to centrally planned ministries are down while those to constituency initiated ministries are up. This suggests that we need to take a careful look at our financing “system” so that both parts of ministry can thrive. Balancing the wishes of constituents with the needs of our partners and the missiological considerations of helping well is a complex task. We are committed to working at this as best we can. Thank you for your generosity and your deep desire to extend the grace of God beyond what any of us can do alone.

Hilda Hildebrand, General Board

Discernment agenda:

Our delegate discernment sessions will focus on the life of our church as it engages our context with the gospel Jesus Christ. Four themes will be processed.

- 1) We will focus on the activities of our church as a “system.” Too often we see only local, regional, or institutional agenda. We trust this will be helpful in order to plan strategically where to dedicate the limited resources available to us.
- 2) We will focus on one of the primary themes expressed by our congregations during the God's People Now tour, namely the place of youth and young adults in the church.
- 3) With the Faith and Life Committee, the intersection of our faith with ecological/ environmental agenda will be explored and strengthened. Concerns about our environment have received much attention in the press lately. Society is “catching up” with the importance of creation-care that the Jewish and Christian scriptures have held before us for centuries. We will explore the church's continued response to this important emphasis of the Christian gospel.
- 4) We will take a closer look at the increasing militarization of our society and the church's response to this reality. Included in this session will be a fuller response to last year's delegate resolution regarding conscientious objection to taxation for military purposes.

- general
- formation
- witness
- support services
- finance
- discernment



Area Church Only Membership:

In the Edmonton Assembly/06, delegates discussed and provided important direction to the Area Churches that may wish to offer a category of membership for congregations that would not include related membership in Mennonite Church Canada. The “green light” for such membership status was given by delegates. The General Board has been working at some of the implications of this decision and has approved two further resolutions regarding ACOM status:

The General Board approves the Support Services Council’s recommendation to allow workers of ACOM congregations to participate in the Pension Plan, Group RRSP and Group Benefits Plan with the same rights and responsibilities as workers of congregations which are full members of MC Canada (Nov./06).

The General Board agrees that if a person is a member of an area church member congregation [whether or not that congregation is ACOM] and is chosen by an area church to be its representative to the MC Canada General Board, Committees, other boards or as area church delegate to the annual assembly, then MC Canada shall accept the appointment, as the person represents the area church and not his or her congregation. However, the MC Canada Nominations Committee shall not solicit nominations from ACOM congregations for the positions that it fills as these are not positions that represent the area churches (March/07).

Militarization, taxation, and Mennonite Church Canada:

The delegates at Assembly/06 resolved that:

..... this assembly mandate the General Board to make representation in consultation with our partners (for example: Mennonite Central Committee, Project Ploughshares) to the Government of Canada, urging the government to enact legislation which would allow conscientious objectors to direct the military portion of their taxes to activities of development and peace.

Upon further research, we noted that Bill-348 had been introduced just prior to Assembly/06 which in effect proposed much of what our resolution called for. This Bill was introduced on June 22/06 by Bill Siksay, Member of Parliament from B.C. and processed by Conscience Canada, an organization begun in the 1980’s for the express purpose of achieving a Conscientious Objection option for military taxation. We also noted with surprise that we were one of the 5 organizations listed on the Bill that should be consulted about its implementation.

The General Board arrived at the following consensus:

The General Board supports Bill C-348 and grants approval for Conscience Canada to post the MC Canada resolution on their website. Flowing out of this support, we invite staff to take action on engaging congregations with this position on peace and conscientious objection (Nov./06).

Since that time, we have worked diligently with Conscience Canada to change the Bill in order to more effectively deliver what we feel our delegates had in mind. Our suggested changes have been accepted both by Conscience Canada and by Siksay and the Bill is being redrafted in order to be reintroduced into Parliament. We have written to the



Karen Hamilton, General Secretary, Canadian Council of Churches

**general
formation
witness
support services
finance
discernment**



Government of Canada indicating our support for the new Bill, advocating that it be passed. We have also gone beyond the delegate resolution to address the General Board's preference that we engage congregations with our position on peace and conscientious objection. We have alerted congregations to resources that are available to them on this issue, and have also designated one of the discernment sessions at this assembly for ongoing discernment of related issues.

Broader Relationships:

We continue to participate in and contribute to the unity of the wider church via our connections with other church communions.



Bruce Clemenger,
President, Evangelical
Fellowship Of Canada,
Robert J. Suderman

Canadian Council of Churches (CCC) and Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (EFC)

1) Our Executive staff represented Mennonite Church Canada at the annual World Day of Prayer, this year sponsored by the Salvation Army. We have extended an invitation for this group to meet at our facilities for this event in 2008. We look forward to hosting this ecumenical gathering.

2) We have represented Mennonite Church Canada at both the EFC and the CCC meetings during the year. Each has its own very distinct flavor, but in both our presence is acknowledged and appreciated. Dr. Karen Hamilton, the Executive Director of the CCC has visited our offices twice during this last year. We appreciate this

connection and the conversations we have been able to have.

3) There are five groups that are part of both the EFC and the CCC. These groups were brought together for a special meeting to share experiences of what it means to be members of both.

4) Out of the experience of dual membership in the EFC and the CCC, we have been invited into a formal dialogue by the Christian Reformed Church of Canada. The General Board responded to this invitation in the following manner:

"The General Board agrees that MC Canada should pursue and engage in a process of exploration with the Christian Reformed Church of Canada" (March/07).

By the time of our Assembly, we will have had our first exploratory meeting.

5) We have appointed Mennonite Disaster Service to formally represent us in pandemic-contingency planning in both these ecumenical bodies.

Mennonite World Conference (MWC):

6) We continue our commitment to be good members of MWC. In September/06 we represented Mennonite Church Canada at the Global Mission Fellowship in Kazakhstan. This was an important gathering of Mennonite leaders from 37 countries in the world. A key decision was to request MWC that this Fellowship become a "Commission" under the structure of MWC. Janet Plenert was elected chair of the Global Mission Fellowship.

7) A decision made a few years ago to offer some of my teaching time to MWC has resulted in an invitation from the MWC member churches in Honduras. I will be spending a few weeks there in August/07 in teaching assignments, under the auspices of the MWC.

general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment



8) In dialogue with MWC, we are trying to increase our support to meet our “fair share” for its ongoing ministry. We are pleased to report that in the first year of our 4-year commitment we have exceeded our fair share financial commitment to them.

Other:

9) We are exploring an invitation from the *Unión de Iglesias Evangélicas Bautista de Chile* (UBACH) for a stronger nurturing relationship with that denomination. It is a denomination of about 30,000 baptized members, about 100,000 participants, in 500 congregations. Denominational leadership is moving the denomination to become “Anabaptist” and is requesting relationships with others to make this happen. We have tentatively scheduled a visit to this church to explore how we can be of help in its resolve.

10) The General Board has received a request from Mennonite Church Canada Witness to formalize the above mentioned relationship with the Chilean church and the Meserete Kristos Church (Ethiopia) as a church-to-church relationship. We are working at the implications of this request.

11) Our relationship with MC USA continues to be strong. The most constant venue for this is the Joint Executive Committee meeting. We are pleased to continue our historic relationship with them.



Sue Steiner, Chair, Christian Formation Council, makes a point at the 2007 Leadership Assembly in Winnipeg. This annual event brings together all board, council, and committee members for three days of discussion, discernment, and decision making.

Built to Last:

We need to reflect back on the introduction of this report. There we indicated that our scriptural motto exhorts us to “build a people-temple where God will find a welcoming habitat.” I believe that each piece of the report in some way reflects our efforts to do this. We don’t want to be a military-reliant people-temple, because we understand that we need to “witness to all people that violence is not the will of God” (*Confession of Faith*, p.82; cf. section on “Militarization”). We want to be a peace-generating people-temple, because we believe that “peace is the will of God” (*COF*, p.81: cf. section on “Militarization”). We want to be a people-temple that reflects the unity of the Trinity in our life with other Christians (John 17:21: cf: “Broader church” section). As God’s people-temple, we want to “share material and spiritual resources, exercise mutual care and discipline, and show hospitality to all” (*COF*, p.40; cf: “ACOM” section). As a people-temple, we want to learn from the wisdom that the Spirit has given to us, organize effectively for ministry, and “to take care of the rest of creation” (*COF*: p.28: cf: “Discernment” and “God’s People Now” sections). And as a people-temple, we are grateful stewards of “money and possessions,” and as such “we are to live simply, practice mutual aid within the church, uphold economic justice, and give generously and cheerfully” (*COF*, p.78: cf: “Thank you” and “Finances...” sections).

In these and many other ways, Mennonite Church Canada is building on the foundation that God has provided: the foundation of the Lordship of Jesus in our lives, in our church, and over his creation.

–Robert J. Suderman

**general
formation
witness
support services
finance
discernment**

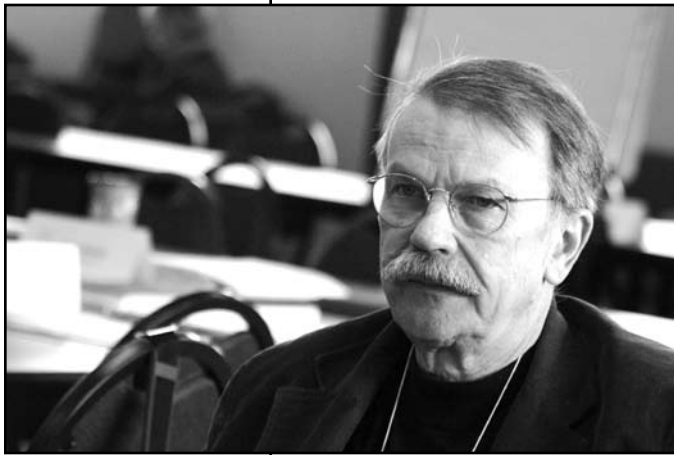


Message from the Denominational Minister

As I write, winter is passing away from Winnipeg. Ice and snow are disappearing. Warm winds are blowing. There is a promise of spring! Winter was not meant to last. In “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe,” C.S. Lewis describes the land of Narnia as gripped in perennial winter. Only with the return of Aslan does the ice and snow give way to the renewal of life and the wonders of spring.

The dormancy and ice of the church-in-winter is not meant to last. When the wind of the Spirit breathes new life into the church, there is warmth and growth and new life is born. This new life that begins with the thawing of spirits and the opening of frozen possibilities is meant to last, or in the words of our theme, it is of Kingdom-making and it is “built to last!”

In what directions is the warm wind of the Spirit blowing? Here are just a few examples:



Sven Eriksson

- Toward caring for one another deeply, as persons loved by Jesus Christ. It was Jesus’ own prayer that we should love one another and that we should be one in that love. If we take Jesus’ prayer at face value, we will do everything in our power to understand one another’s perspectives and work hard, as Paul puts it, “to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”
- Toward affirming pastoral leadership on the basis of giftedness rather than gender.
- Toward developing a “culture of call” by developing a unified-field approach to encouraging young and not so young to respond to the challenge of leadership.

What could happen if all the players—that is our schools, our camps, and our denomination—developed a common game plan for finding, training and mentoring leaders?

- Toward mentoring young pastors and leaders. Our future is at stake. The drop-out rate of first term pastors is a concern. One denomination recently reported it to be 46%. This should put mentoring young pastors very high as a priority for area church leadership. In addition to the mentoring needs of pastors is the need for on-going garden-variety mentoring of lay leaders in congregations, if leaders of all kinds will be found to serve and lead the church. Mentoring those that the Spirit is calling into ministry needs to be high on the priority list of all pastors.
- Toward a deeper, wider, warmer welcoming of the outsider into our congregations; a genuine reaching out to those outside our languages, culture and comfort zones.
- Toward a more serious commitment to creation care. The true worship of our Creator God, the faithful love of our neighbour and justice for those affected by our abuse of the environment all call for renewed action among us.
- Toward a unified stand against militarism in our country – not just because militarism does not work, but because it violates the teaching and example of Jesus.

—Sven Eriksson, Denominational Minister

general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment



Faith and Life Committee (FLC)

The Faith and Life Committee has as its mandate to give leadership to Mennonite Church Canada in discerning God's will on issues of theology, ethics, polity, and practice. The focus question we bring to bear as we consider each issue is: What does it mean to be a faithful Mennonite Church?¹

In November of 2005 the General Board established screening criteria for choosing discernment issues on which to focus:

- It must be about theology, ethics, ecclesiology, polity, or practice of MC Canada;
- It must be of national scope rather than of regional concern;
- It must be significant to the life of the Mennonite Church;
- It has not been nor is presently being addressed adequately within or outside of MC Canada;
- It should be relevant to the mission of the MC Canada;
- The Committee should feel confident that it can be addressed productively;
- It is affirmed by the General Board as a priority issue.

The priorities of the FLC are tested with a Reference Council, made up of representatives of the Mennonite academic institutions and the moderators, secretaries and conference ministers, and then approved by the General Board. The Reference Council and General Board are also encouraged to suggest issues for future consideration.

At the Assembly of 2006 the FLC prepared several documents to lead the Biblical and theological reflection around the request for Area Church Only Membership. The final versions of those documents are now on the MC Canada website for your reference (go to www.mennonitechurch.ca/events/edmonton/, scroll down to report book, and click on "Discernment Guide"). Further clarification around the implementation of ACOM continues, primarily through the work of the General Board.

In September, 2006, the FLC selected three new issues for immediate attention and these were approved by the General Board in the November meetings. They are:

- The crisis of our environment;
- Our relations with people of religions different from our own;
- Our understanding of the authority of the Bible in our time.

In recent months, the concern for the environment has made it to the top of our awareness in Canadian society. The FLC, on behalf of the General Board, would like to give special attention at the 2007 Assembly to the pertinent Biblical and theological perspectives that are part of this global concern. Work and discernment continues on the other issues mentioned as well. Our prayer is that we will indeed be faithful as we seek God's will on these important issues of faith and practice.

—Rudy Baergen

¹ See the 2006 Report book for more comprehensive discussion on our guiding question (www.mennonitechurch.ca/events/edmonton/).

At a Glance...

Members:

Rudy Baergen, MB
Karl Koop, MB
Doreen Neufeld, AB
Betty Pries, ON



Betty Pries, member of the Faith and Life Committee, contributes to the discussion of the assembly discernment topic of creation care.

**general
formation
witness
support services
finance
discernment**

Assembly 2006 Actions and Follow-up

Motion 1:

The delegate assembly adopts the minutes of the 6th Annual Session of Mennonite Church Canada as recorded and published in Minute Book 2005 issued by Mennonite Church Canada.

Motion 2:

The delegate assembly approves the actions taken by the General Board of Mennonite Church Canada in the past year.

Motion 2a: The delegate assembly approves that scriptural texts be chosen for our nurture as a church, with a focused 2-year time-horizon.

Motion 2b: Move to table Motion 2 to allow the resolutions committee to find a way to amend it per the discussion.

Motion 2c: Move to take Motion 2 off the table.

Motion 2d: Move to withdraw Motion 2.

Motion 3:

The delegates of Mennonite Church Canada resolve that we help to build a strong scripture foundation for our church by:

- Choosing a single foundational scripture;
- Choosing key biblical texts to nourish our church life;
- Using these texts for two consecutive assemblies;
- Developing resources to help congregations deepen their understandings and application of these texts to the life of the Church over a 2 year period.

general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment

Motion 4:

The delegates of Mennonite Church Canada resolve that the foundational scripture for Mennonite Church Canada be 1 Corinthians 3:11.

“For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.” (NRSV translation)

Motion 5:

The delegate assembly approves the audited financial statements for Mennonite Church Canada for the fiscal year ended January 31, 2006.

Motion 6:

Be it resolved that Mennonite Church Canada delegates affirm that Area Conferences who establish categories for congregational membership that do not automatically include membership in Mennonite Church Canada, do not affect or jeopardize their own membership status nor the membership of their “constituent congregations” in Mennonite Church Canada.

Amendment to Motion 6:

Be it further resolved that Mennonite Church Canada establish categories for congregational membership that do not automatically include membership in area conferences.

Amendment defeated.

Motion carried in a ballot vote (234 yes; 58 no; 4 abstained).

Motion 7:

The delegate assembly moves that nominations cease and the slate of nominees be approved as presented.

Motion 8:

The delegate assembly approves the budget presented for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2007, as well as the projected budgets presented for fiscal year ending January 31, 2008 and fiscal year ending January 31, 2009.



Motion 9:

The delegate assembly appoints KPMG as the auditor for Mennonite Church Canada for fiscal year ending January 31, 2007.

Motion 10:

The delegate assembly directs that all ballots be destroyed.

Resolution 1:

Whereas the government of Canada:

- Is moving Canada’s military from peacekeeping duties to direct military interventions,
- Is significantly increasing spending for the military,
- And whereas current legislation forces conscientious objectors to contribute to the military budget through taxation

Be it resolved that this assembly mandate the General Board to make representation in consultation with our partners (for example: Mennonite Central Committee, Project Ploughshares) to the Government of Canada, urging the government to enact legislation which would allow conscientious objectors to direct the military portion of their taxes to activities of development and peace.

Resolution 2:

We recognize the significant amount of organization and work necessary for a successful assembly. This week we have been inspired and challenged. We have worked together and played together. We have listened to stories, sung of our faith and made progress in being God’s People Now!

- Thank you to the staff of MC Canada and to every person on each committee that planned this assembly.
- Thank you to the local congregations who have welcomed and embraced us with open arms, and

for their many hours of careful planning and implementation.

- Thank you to those who planned and resourced the Ministers’ Conference and those who assisted in providing transportation, child care and food for the body.
- Thank you to the many volunteers who always greeted us cheerfully and provided information and direction as needed.
- Thank you to the DVBS Troupe and child care workers who eased our minds and provided learning and entertainment for our children.
- Thank you to all the members of the boards and councils and especially the Moderator and the General Secretary.
- Thank you to the leaders of worship and those who spoke words of exhortation and inspiration to us.
- Thank you to the seminar leaders who educated and informed us.
- Thank you to the staff of the Delta Hotel and Coast Terrace Inn for their consideration of our needs.

All have contributed tirelessly to the ongoing work of being God’s People Now!

general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment



General Board Actions

March 2006

Consensus

The General Board agrees that the Education Reference Group has completed the work it was mandated to do, and disbands the committee with thanks to the members for their assistance.

Consensus

The General Board affirms the nomination of Jorge Hoajaca (second 2-year term) and Hilda Hildebrandt (first 2-year term) as at-large members of the General Board.

Consensus

The General Board agrees with the JEC recommendation to consider rescheduling the next joint meeting of the MC USA Executive Board and MC Canada General Board to coincide with the proposed joint gathering in Canada in summer 2008.

Motion

The General Board asks executive staff to disburse up to 10% of the MC Canada FYE'06 surplus to external organizations we relate to, with the balance of the surplus to be put into reserve funds according to policy.

Motion

The General Board agrees to rescind the above Motion.

general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment



Consensus

The General Board asks Christian Formation Council to move in the direction of connecting with post-secondary schools as reported.

Consensus

The General Board asks Christian Formation Council to proceed with relating to Mennonite Publishing Network as reported, noting the General Board continues to be responsible for the financial accountability of the MPN partnership

Consensus

The General Board supports the direction for a Church-School Reference Council as reported by Christian Formation Council.

Motion

The General Board authorizes Mennonite Disaster Services to represent MC Canada to the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, Canadian Council of Churches, and to communicate with the government on our behalf to facilitate the planning of a pandemic response in Canada.

Consensus

The General Board asks Executive Staff to be the Lead Contact on behalf of MC Canada to facilitate the pandemic response planning with MDS.

Motion

The General Board accepts the February 28, 2006 draft of the Proposed Transfer of 600 Shaftesbury Boulevard to Canadian Mennonite University, and authorizes staff to proceed with the implementation of the transfer.

Motion

The General Board approves the Support Services Council request for \$10,000 in funding for software development from the New Initiatives Reserve during FYE 2007. This software development will allow the Resource Centre to implement its "one-door" vision for resource delivery, and create e-commerce capability for the entire MC Canada system.

Motion

The General Board agrees to transfer from the General Treasury to Internally Restricted Funds the following:

1. Witness Council: \$50,000 to an International Ministries fund, and
2. Support Services Council: \$15,000 to a Major Repair fund.

Motion

The General Board approves the Operating Budget for the Financial Year Ending January 31, 2007 as presented and agrees:

A. To transfer from the General Board's New Initiatives fund the following:

1. Support Services: \$10,000 for computer programming work for the Resource Centre, and
2. General Board: \$8,000 for God's People Now Tour by Jack Suderman.

B. To transfer from the General Board's Internally Restricted General fund \$16,923 to the General Treasury to offset the operating statement budgeted deficit.

Motion

The General Board agrees to transfer \$30,000 from the General Capital Fund into the Capital Asset Fund, and approves the Capital Budget for Financial Year Ending January 31, 2007 as presented.

Motion

The General Board approves a two percent (2%) cost of living salary increase for all staff, to be effective February 1, 2006.

April 2006

Consensus

The General Board approves the following statement of priorities for Mennonite Church Canada:

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, and
- Grow leaders for the Church.

Motion

The General Board recommends the delegate assembly approve the audited financial statements of MC Canada for the year ended January 31, 2006.

Motion

The General Board recommends the delegate assembly appoint KPMG as auditors for MC Canada, subject to receiving a 3-year fee proposal from KPMG that is deemed acceptable by FPAC.

Motion

The General Board conditionally approves the package of Financial Policies, with the understanding that the policy updates will not come into force until the editorial changes reflecting our discussion have been accepted by executive staff and FPAC, and the General Board gives final approval to the revisions.

Consensus

The General Board responds positively to the report on the work being done to develop a foundational document on education in collaboration with the colleges and seminary, and encourages consultation with the schools about redeploying the resources of MC Canada to fund the priority of leadership development as outlined.

Consensus

The General Board would like to explore "Global Deacons" as a potential theme for the joint gathering in 2008, and asks staff to find a way to shape and test that further with the two primary planning partners (MC USA and MC Canada) and assess the level of participation that should be pursued.

general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment



Consensus

The General Board agrees to move in the direction of changing the bylaws so that we can appoint a staff person as one of our three MC Canada representatives to the General Council of Mennonite World Conference.

Consensus

The General Board agrees the staff person appointed to the General Council of Mennonite World Conference should be the General Secretary.

Motion

The General Board approves the "Computer and Internet Acceptable Use Policy" for inclusion in the Personnel Policy Manual.

Motion

The General Board approves the "Mennonite Church Canada Privacy Code" to ensure our compliance with the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act to the extent that it applies to our activities.

Consensus

The General Board desires that MC Canada move towards contributing our fair share to Mennonite World Conference and asks staff to gather information to help us better understand the MC Canada system wide support for the core budget and related projects of Mennonite World Conference.

Consensus

The General Board recommends to the delegate assembly that scriptural texts be chosen for our nurture as a church, with a focused 2-year time-horizon.

general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment



Consensus

The General Board approves the "Strategic Planning Table" for inclusion in the Report Book with minor changes as noted in our discussion.

Consensus

The General Board approves the direction proposed in "Area Conference Only Membership - Draft #1" for presentation to the delegate assembly.

Consensus

The General Board is comfortable with direction and intent of the "Rights and Privileges of Area Conference Only Membership" document.

Consensus

The General Board recommends the delegate assembly approve the "Area Conference Only Membership - Statements of Understanding" and gives notice that the bylaw changes required as a result of this decision will be brought to delegates for approval at Assembly 2007.

Consensus

The General Board requests that delegates comment and give suggestions for the practical implications of the proposed direction on membership

Consensus

The General Board agrees that assembly organization shall routinely include the following:

- a) The Moderator, Assistant Moderator and General Secretary shall act as spokespersons for MC Canada at assembly,
- b) The General Board shall appoint three members of the General Board as a Reference Group for the spokespersons,
- c) If requested, the General Board shall refer BMC to persons who can assist BMC to find meeting space in the vicinity of assembly,
- d) If requested, the General Board will make an appropriate announcement at assembly regarding the location of the BMC meeting space,

- e) The determination of what is an appropriate announcement shall be made by the Executive of the General Board, and
- f) The General Board will provide pastoral care by hosting a meeting for families and friends of people living with homosexuality.

Consensus

The General Board appoints Andrew Reesor-McDowell, Sue Steiner, and Karen Heidebrecht Thiessen to the Reference Group for the spokespersons at Assembly 2006.

Consensus

The General Board appoints Esther Peters and Garth Ewert Fisher to host the pastoral care meeting for family and friends of gays and lesbians.

July 2006

Consensus

The General Board approves the Finance Policy Manual as noted.

Consensus

The General Board agrees to recommend to the delegates that MC Canada appoint KPMG as auditors for the fiscal year ending January 2007.

Consensus

The inclination of the General Board is to lodge the role of MC Canada's Organizational Unit for AMBS (as outlined in the AMBS bylaws) with Christian Formation Council.

Motion

The General Board calls for a meeting of Mennonite Properties Inc. (MPI) as soon as possible. At that meeting, the General Board instructs the MC Canada members of MPI:

- a) To introduce and to vote in favour of a motion to transfer ownership of 500 Shaftesbury Blvd. to Canadian Mennonite University (CMU).
- b) To urge MPI to complete this transfer as soon as practically possible to facilitate the signing of the CMU

dissolution agreement and the transfer of 600 Shaftesbury to CMU.

- c) To introduce and to vote in favour of a motion to dissolve MPI as a corporate entity as soon as the transfer of 500 Shaftesbury Blvd. to CMU and any other actions required to wind down the corporation are complete.

September 2006 – Conference Call

Consensus

The General Board agrees that it would like FPAC to review the terms of the proposed sale of the Provident bookstores before the Joint Executive Committee meeting.

Motion

The General Board is in favour of the MPN Board resolution of August 31, 2006 regarding the sale of four Provident bookstores, subject to FPAC review and approval of the terms and conditions of the sale.

Consensus

The General Board asks that the Executive Committee seek clarification from MC USA and MPN regarding the outstanding debt repayment to MMA if Berean fails to pay the balance of purchase price as scheduled.

November 2006

Consensus

The General Board supports Bill C-348 and grants approval for Conscience Canada to post the MC Canada resolution on their website. Flowing out of this support, we invite staff to take action on engaging congregations with this position on peace and conscientious objection.

general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment



Motion

The General Board approves the updates to the Elected Volunteer Travel Expenditure Policy.

Consensus

The General Board asks staff for a strategy on how to address the erosion of the program budget.

Consensus

The General Board supports the approval of the Partnership Covenant with editorial revisions to point 4 and Appendix item (i) reflecting our discussion.

Consensus

The General Board agrees that staff should do further research and determine the joint gathering location that is most suitable for MC Canada’s purposes.

Motion

The General Board approves the recommendation from Support Services Council to invite the Thompson Arts Council to purchase the Thompson United Mennonite Church building at fair market price, and to give the Thompson Arts Council up to two years to raise the funds required for the purchase. If the Thompson Arts Council is unable or unwilling to purchase the building, we would look for another purchaser at fair market price.

Motion

The General Board recommends the following additional revisions:

- Phoning Home: It is appropriate for employees traveling and working away from the office to telephone home. Staff is expected to keep the costs reasonable.

general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment



- Annual Assemblies:

1. Attendance at assembly, travel, accommodation arrangements, and coverage of expenses are to be approved by the appropriate executive secretary in advance.

4. Billeting is encouraged. For those who choose a designated assembly hotel, it is preferred that accommodations will be arranged on a two person per room basis. Subsequently, MC Canada will reimburse each individual for half of the room costs. If a person chooses not to share a room with another MC Canada staff person or volunteer they will personally cover the additional costs incurred. Exceptions require prior approval by the appropriate executive secretary.

The General Board approves the revised Travel Expense Policy for staff.

Consensus

The General Board approves the recommendation from executive staff to continue with current level of grants to MWC in the budget and invite interested “partners” to contribute an additional \$20,000.

Motion

The General Board approves the Support Services Council’s recommendation to allow workers of ACOM congregations to participate in the Pension Plan, Group RRSP and Group Benefits Plan with the same rights and responsibilities as workers of congregations which are full members of MC Canada.

Motion

The General Board agrees that if a person is a member of an area conference member congregation, whether or not that congregation is ACOM, and is chosen by an area conference to be its representative to the MC Canada General Board or Councils, then MC Canada shall accept the appointment, as the person represents the area conference and not his or her congregation. However, the MC Canada Nominations Committee shall not solicit nominations from ACOM congregations for the positions that it fills as these are not positions that represent the area conferences.

Motion

Move to table the above Motion to allow MSCM to review and provide counsel.

Consensus

The General Board recommends to the delegate body that MC Canada approve the proposed bylaw revisions regarding Area Conference Only Membership.

Consensus

The General Board recommends to the delegate body that MC Canada approve the proposed bylaw revisions regarding Mennonite World Conference appointees.

Consensus

The General Board recommends to the delegate body that MC Canada approve the proposed bylaw revisions regarding accountability for related organizations.

Consensus

The General Board requests staff review and bring back to the General Board in March any other updates required to align the language and terms in the bylaws with decisions made by delegates and/or General Board including use of the term “church” in place of “conference”, and “statement of identity and purpose” rather than “mission statement”.

general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment



Mennonite Church USA (MC USA)



Jim Schrag

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.

These words represent Mennonite Church USA's vision. It's a vision that calls us to seek out places where God is at work and joyfully follow Jesus into the world to bring healing and hope to others. As all of the parts of Mennonite Church USA follow Christ together, we believe that each member and each part must Live the Call in ways as unique as our gifts and personalities. Executive Leadership exists to help all parts of the church identify and live out their unique, Anabaptist missional calling.

Executive Leadership ministries support the whole by working with Mennonite Church USA congregations, area conferences and churchwide agencies. As the staff of the Mennonite Church USA Executive Board, Executive Leadership also is called to help Mennonite Church USA join in God's activity in the world by developing and nurturing missional Mennonite congregations of many cultures through these churchwide priorities:

- Practicing holistic witness: We proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ through a seamless web of evangelism, justice and peacebuilding.
- Creating a culture of call: We call, train and nurture new leaders for Mennonite Church USA.
- Building global connections: We foster and develop new partnerships with the broader body of Christ around the world.
- Becoming an anti-racist church: We strive to honour the dignity and value of all people, regardless of their race or ethnicity and denounce racist behavior within the body of Christ.

As Executive Leadership staff, we pursue these four priorities so that we can be the kind of church together that God wants us to become – a church that gives others a glimpse of God's intentions for the whole world, takes risks, shares God's good news with others and pledges our primary allegiance to Jesus Christ.

Together in Christ,

Jim Schrag
Executive Director, Mennonite Church USA

general
formation
witness
support services
finance
discernment



Mennonite World Conference (MWC)

MWC exists to (1) be a global community of faith in the Anabaptist tradition, (2) facilitate community among Anabaptist related churches worldwide, and (3) relate to other Christian world communions and organizations.

The MWC faith family now includes almost 1.5 million people in over seventy countries. The Anabaptist-Mennonite story is being transformed and reshaped by God's Spirit through the almost 60% of MWC members who are African, Asian or Latin American. It is an exciting and challenging moment in history.

MWC has published a brochure listing sixteen ways in which MWC links us, as individuals and as Mennonite Church Canada, to the global Mennonite community for fellowship, worship, service and witness. The items represent bright hopes and dreams, questions and deep concerns, initiatives and responses in our global family of faith.

For example: Arriving at a common statement of Shared Convictions was a lengthy process of consultations that culminated in acceptance through consensus at the General Council sessions in 2006.

Standing in solidarity with member churches and their leaders who are suffering, in financial crisis, or facing leadership challenges or internal conflicts is a growing priority. Prayers, official letters, visits by General Secretary Larry Miller and various delegations are ways in which support is shown. Recent examples are the Koinonia Delegation traveling to Zimbabwe to fulfill the promise that MWC will not forget them in their distress, and a delegation of American Mennonites visiting Congo to see the life of Congolese Mennonites and to grow in Christian fellowship.

The Global Church Sharing Fund assigns each member church a fair share amount to meet financial needs. This Fund plus other projects are always in need of our support.

Networking is a great blessing to the Mennonite Women Theologians Group in Africa and to a similar group in South America. Youth and young adults connect with each other around the world through the YAMEN! exchange program and the AMIGOS network.

MWC holds a global assembly in a different part of the world every six years: Calcutta, 1997; Bulawayo, 2003; and next in Asuncion, Paraguay in 2009. These gatherings are inspiring times of connections for many people in the global church.

Publications help to nurture community, such as "Courier" magazine and the European book in the Global Mennonite History series, *Testing Faith and Tradition*. The latest book selected for the Anabaptist Shelf of Literature is *Stewardship for All*, by Bedru Hussein and Lynn Miller. Translating these materials into the many languages spoken by MWC members is a huge task.

Mission groups and churches are finding ways to consult and cooperate through Global Mission Fellowship.

MWC invites us all to give from our abundance to ensure that MC Canada meets its "fair share" plus more, to pray for our worldwide brothers and sisters, to keep informed through "Courier" magazine, to share our gifts with the larger church and in so doing, glorify our Lord Jesus Christ.

–Naomi Unger, MC Canada representative to MWC

At a Glance...



50 Kent Avenue
Kitchener, ON N2G 3R1
CANADA
Tel: (1) 519-571-0060
Fax: (1) 519-571-1980
Kitchener@mw-cmm.org

Officers:

President: Nancy Heisey, USA
Vice President: Danisa Ndlovu, ZIMBABWE
General Secretary: Larry Miller, FRANCE
Treasurer: Paul Quiring, USA



general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment



Mennonite Church Alberta (MCA)

At a Glance...

Annual Budget: \$470,000 +/-

Executive: Walter Wiebe, Secretary; Noreen Neufeld, Finance Chair; Linden Willms, Vice Moderator; Marguerite Jack, Moderator

Staff: Keith Hunsberger, Treasurer; Jim Shantz, Minister to Conference; Jeff & Ingrid Schellenberg, Camp Valaqua Managers; Jon Olfert, Camp Valaqua Director; Don Stoesz, Bowden Penitentiary Chaplain.

MC Canada Staff in MCA: Marvin Baergen, Mission Formation and Partnership Facilitator.

Mennonite Church Alberta is a small conference comprised of 17 churches with approximately 1700 members. We are a diverse church that includes rural and urban, multi-generational and multi-ethnic members and we strive to learn to discern God's voice together in a variety of ways.

We continue to meet annually at our delegate sessions. This year we met at Lethbridge Mennonite Church in southern Alberta where we worked at the Vision and Mission for Mennonite Church Alberta. Our Pastors Council prepared four Focus Questions which we considered over table discussions. We anticipate creative outcomes as to how we wish Mennonite Church Alberta to carry the good news into the future. Our various Committees provided workshops for our delegate sessions. We interacted with the ideas and dreams that our committee members have worked at over the past year and we heard what is being planned for the coming year. The committee's gifts are in the areas of missions and service, congregational life, finance, youth, history, planning for conferences, congregational leadership, songfest and women in mission. We are thankful for all our volunteers – for their work and for their commitment to the church.

The Pastors Council continues to play an important role in the life of our conference. This group meets regularly to discuss issues within our area church, to share with each other the experiences in their own congregations, to pray for each other, and to learn together. Jim Shantz, the area church pastor leads this group.

Camp Valaqua is our largest program and it receives a large portion of our resources, energy, time and money. Jon Olfert and his family have been a wonderful addition to Camp Valaqua. Jon has been the new Director over the past year. Together with Jeff and Ingrid Schellenberg, the camp managers, Jon has been busy hosting the regular campers during the summer, hosting youth events, church retreats, and educational sessions throughout the year. The Youth from the conference converge on the camp during the winter snow camps as well, enjoying the quiet and beauty of Valaqua's wilderness setting.

Don Stoesz works as a chaplain at the Bowden Penitentiary. His chaplaincy position is totally funded through Correctional Service Canada and is an important component of Mennonite Church Alberta. The Bowden facility is located midway between Calgary and Edmonton on the Queen Elizabeth II Highway.

This year as we move to the important issue of Vision and Mission which will mold our church for the future, we are anticipating the exciting outcomes from a direction set by our delegates. We ask that you as the wider church keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we keep you in ours.

–Marguerite Jack, outgoing Moderator, Mennonite Church Alberta

general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment



Mennonite Church British Columbia (MCBC)

2006/2007 has been a very productive year for Mennonite Church British Columbia. The Steering Committee mandate by the Mennonite Church BC delegate body was to review and renew the identity and vision of MCBC; this was completed and adopted by the delegate body on June 3rd, 2006. The Committee was then asked to continue its mandate by envisioning an implementation plan; this was adopted by the delegate body at our Annual Delegate Session on February 24th, 2007.

The documents adopted on June 3rd, 2006 included: our Identity and Purpose Statement and our Vision, Beliefs and Commitments. This is our Identity and Purpose: *“Mennonite Church British Columbia 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.”* For our vision we adopted the Mennonite Church *Vision: Healing and Hope* statement. For our beliefs we adopted the *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective*. We then made five commitments:

1. To love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength and our neighbours as ourselves.
2. To be effective witnesses through evangelism, peace and justice, and service.
3. To become faithful mature disciples of Christ.
4. To call, train and support leaders to assist congregations in fulfilling the mission of God in a broken world.
5. To keep the unity of the Spirit in our congregations, our conferences and the global Christian Church community.

The documents adopted on February 24th, 2007 include: our Priority Actions, Organizational Structure and a Covenant. At the time of this writing we look forward to a celebration of worship on Sunday morning, May 27th, 2007 at Mennonite Educational Institute (MEI) in Abbotsford, where MCBC congregations will join in our commitment to being the church together by signing the Covenant. Between February and May the congregations are discerning their commitment to MCBC based on the content of the Covenant – the agreement on which we find our reason to be together. There may be some congregations who feel they cannot sign this agreement for one reason or another. If this is the case, we trust that God is leading them, and we will bless them in their new direction.

There will be many changes as we seek to respond to our priority actions; these are reflected in the new organizational structure. There is also much that will remain the same. 2007 is a year of implementation and we hope to have “the new” up and running by our next annual meeting in February of 2008. The major changes include: moving from having a Conference Minister to an Executive Minister (while still a pastoral presence – more visioning, overall leadership and team leadership with the committees), establishing a Faith and Life committee and downsizing the number of people required on the committees.

Your prayers are much appreciated.

–Garry Janzen, Chair of MCBC Steering Committee
March 9, 2007

At a Glance...

Activity/Program: An Area Church desiring to work together to achieve those things which we cannot do easily as separate churches.

Ministry goals and objectives: Mennonite Church British Columbia 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.

Average Annual Budget: \$424,000 (not including Camp Squeah)

Staff: Henry Kliever, Conference Minister; Janette Thiessen, Office Administrator; Rob Tiessen, Camp Squeah Executive Director

Leadership Board Executive Officers: Gerd Bartel, Moderator; Karen Heidebrecht Thiessen, Vice-Moderator; Linda Matties, Secretary; Eldon Krause, Finance Chair

MC Canada Staff in MCBC: Samson Lo, Director of Multicultural Ministries; Gerd Bartel, Western Director of Resource Development

general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment



Mennonite Church Eastern Canada (MCEC)

At a Glance...

Executive: Leroy Shantz (Chair), Helen Eby, Anita Fieguth, Matthew Isert Bender, Fred Kinsie, Robert Konrad, Larry Martin, Carol Penner, Jana Schmidt

MCEC Staff: David Martin, Executive Minister; Muriel Bechtel, Conference Minister; Jeff Steckley, Congregational Ministries Minister; Brian Bauman, Mission Minister; Ester Neufeldt, Operations Minister; Gord Alton, Regional Minister; Marvin Friesen, Regional Minister; Maurice Martin, Regional Minister; Marianne Mellinger, Coordinator of Leadership Formation; Lisa Williams, Director of Communications; Joan Schooley, Administrative Assistant; Bev Raimbault, Administrative Assistant; Margaret Oakey, Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant.

general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment



Extending the peace of Jesus Christ, making disciples, growing congregations, forming leaders

“More Than Enough: Releasing God’s Gifts” guided us this past year as we extended the peace of Jesus Christ throughout Eastern Canada and witnessed the many gifts of our people released into ministry.

MCEC has experienced a year of implementation during which a new council structure and staffing model have taken shape. Confidence is now emerging that the new structure will serve the 90+ congregations in a manner that is supportive, responsive and creative.

A feature of the new ministry model is the introduction of three regional ministers. Their ministry is already proving to be meaningful for pastors and congregations as new support systems are fostered. As this work continues to unfold, Regional Ministers are connecting congregations at a local level and meeting with congregational leaders and pastors to offer their support and resources.

MCEC and MC Canada share identical priorities for ministry as we walk alongside each other and live out the mandate that God has given us as a body of believers.

- ***Making Disciples/Form A People of God:***

Children, youth and young adults continue to be an important part of MCEC’s ministry through programs like Bible Quizzing, Youth Winter Retreat, Jr. Youth Breakaway, Young Adult Retreat, Vacation Bible School Troupe, etc. As MCEC continues to move into our new structure, we anticipate launching a new initiative in youth and young adult ministry around faith formation and leadership cultivation.

- ***Growing Congregations/Becoming A Global Church:***

Two new congregations were welcomed into MCEC and MC Canada this past year. Lao Canadian Evangelical Mennonite Church and The Gathering Church were both received as emerging congregations. MCEC worships in nine languages and is rapidly becoming connected to the global church through partnership projects and new congregations. We expect more church planting to unfold. MCEC provides support for church planting leaders as they come together with others in like ministry to relate stories, share concerns and pray for each other. A tool kit entitled Church Planting in an Anabaptist Perspective is set to be released in the coming year. This tool kit is for church planters, church planting teams and churches wishing to plant a new church.

- ***Forming Leaders/
Growing Leaders for the Church:***

Sometimes pastoral reviews can be an anxious time for leaders. MCEC is currently testing a new approach to reviews based on appreciative inquiry, which fosters an atmosphere of appreciation



and trust as well as providing a supportive environment for growth. This work is currently being shared with other Area Churches within MC Canada and MC USA.

We rejoice in a bountiful God who provides more than enough. We have finished our fiscal year with a slight surplus. This surplus was due to the generosity of our congregations as well as to more accurate revenue projections and a trimmed budget in 2006. We give thanks that ministries throughout MCEC and MC Canada are able to continue and flourish through God's abundance.

-Lisa Williams, Communications Director, MCEC

MC Canada Staff in MCEC:
Dave Klassen, Eastern Director of Resource Development; Rebecca Yoder Neufeld, Missional Formation and Partnership Facilitator (Eastern Canada)

Mennonite Church Manitoba (MCM)

Rooted in the Centre - "... Let your roots grow down into him and draw up nourishment from him ..." Colossians 2:6-7

Evangelism and Service Ministries assists in developing inter-cultural partnerships for learning and ministry. These partnerships contribute to new insights as we share the view through our cultural lenses. Surprise and celebration characterize the relationships as we walk a journey of discovery and service with each other.

"**Living on the Edge**" (MCM's theme for 2007) invites exploration of the "edges" we choose for ourselves and the ones society imposes on us. Evangelism in a post-Christendom culture raises questions about sharing our faith in respectfully invitational ways. Congregations explore a variety of ways to "model" the good news in their communities in new and creative ways

The **Camping Ministry** presented its "homegrown songs" at the annual Celebration banquets. These songs represent the heartfelt investment of young people in the camping mission. The songs are written to complement the annual Bible curriculum at an annual song writing workshop. Young writers gather to craft and compare melodies and texts. Here is the text from one of the songs:

*Listen up to all of you
this is what we're called to do
we are building the kingdom*

*The journey's open to us all
to the young, old, big and small
we are building the kingdom*

*So sing and rejoice
and lift up your voice
We've all got something we can
give*

*We're building the kingdom of
God*

Leadership Ministries this past year saw the end of John Klassen's tenure as Director when he returned to congregational ministry in September. There was a larger than normal transition of pastors in Manitoba in 2006. Harold Peters-Fransen began as interim Director of Leadership Ministries in September. In order to allow Harold to work on some development issues related to Leadership, Peter Zacharias, recently retired pastor, picked up the significant piece of providing pastoral care to pastors and their families. The continuing challenge is to develop new leadership as pastors retire, and to help congregations develop healthy pastoral congregational relationships.

-Edgar Rempel, Executive Director

At a Glance...

Activity: A community of 49 congregations, together presenting Jesus Christ to the world.

Our Vision: To be a community of congregations unified in Jesus Christ, living a biblical Anabaptist faith, together presenting Jesus Christ to the world.

Annual Budget: \$1,767,800

Board of Directors: Hans Werner, Moderator; Directors: Don Bergen, Julie Derksen, Gordon Driedger, Tym Elias, Ruth Falk (interim), Dan Horne, Kathryn Reimer.

Staff: Edgar Rempel, Executive Director; Tom Seals, Treasurer; Beverley Sawatzky and Eva Loewen, Administrative Assistants; Harold Peters-Fransen, Interim Director of Leadership Ministries; Peter Zacharias, Interim Director Pastor Care; Norm Voth, Director of Evangelism and Service Ministries; Bob Wiebe, Director of Camping Ministries; Darryl Neustaedter Barg, Associate Director Media Ministries; Dorothea Rempel Kampen, Frohe Botschaft Producer; Camp Managers and Staff.

general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment



Mennonite Church Saskatchewan (MC Sask)

At a Glance...



MC Sask Executive:

Henry Block, moderator
Grace Funk, secretary
Doyle Wiebe, chair of finance committee

Staff: Jerry Buhler, conference minister; Anna Rehan, conference youth minister.

MC Canada staff in Sask.

Eric Olfert, missional formation and partnership facilitator for Saskatchewan;
Anna Rehan, Youth Ministries Facilitator; Ingrid Janzen Lamp, "Der Bote" editor.

Deputy moderator position is vacant at time of writing



Our annual delegate session took place on February 23 and 24 hosted by Grace and Peace Mennonite Churches in Regina. Our focus scripture for this year is 1 Corinthians 3:11. The theme for our session was "Firm Foundation, Ongoing Construction".

Our various commissions and boards reported on how their particular work was building on Jesus Christ, our firm foundation. The vision statement of our area church calls us to be Christ centred and sent. All our various activities call us to be centred in Christ and to permit Christ to send us where He would.

Our Ministries Commission highlighted the "outreach" work of MC Sask. This past year they led us on a mission tour. Two groups left Saskatoon to learn how some of our rural congregations are centering on Christ and are being sent into their own communities. The communities of Superb, Herschel and Fisk were visited by one group. The other group visited Zion in Swift Current, Emmaus at Wymark and Camp Elim on Lake Pelletier.

Three congregations took part in the MC Canada missional training event in Waterloo, ON and Regina, SK in November 06 and March 07.

We are being intentional in building relationships with our Aboriginal neighbours.

In November, members of the ministries commission and the executive visited the Willow Creek Healing Lodge at Beardy's Reserve near Duck Lake. We are supporting the Eagles Wings Ministry, a drop in center in Prince Albert, directed by Ray Dumais.

We support growing Asian ministry in Regina and Hispanic ministry in Saskatoon.

P2P transition group at work

This past summer MC Sask supported its first VBS Troupe. This was a group of young adults and youth who supported vacation Bible schools in nine churches.

MC Sask provides continuing education opportunities for pastors and others every spring. This year's continuing education event will take place May 22-25. Walter Sawatsky, from AMBS, will be teaching a course on Eastern Christianity. We have invited the Lutheran community to join us for this course. Plans are for this course to be taught at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon.

Mennonite Church Saskatchewan is in transition. We are working at changing our organizational structure to help us to be Christ centred and sent. Much time and energy this past year went into restructuring our Person to Person (P2P) prison visitation program. A group of ten persons, representing five denominations plus MCC, has been working at broadening the scope and the supporting community of the P2P program. We envision the program to continue to focus on visiting those in prison, but also to go to supporting persons after they leave prison. We plan to become more intentional in paying attention to restorative justice for the offenders and also to support for victims of offences. We are excited about the direction and the broad support for this ministry

—Henry Block



Staff: Jerry Buhler, Anna Rehan, Eric Olfert

general

formation

witness

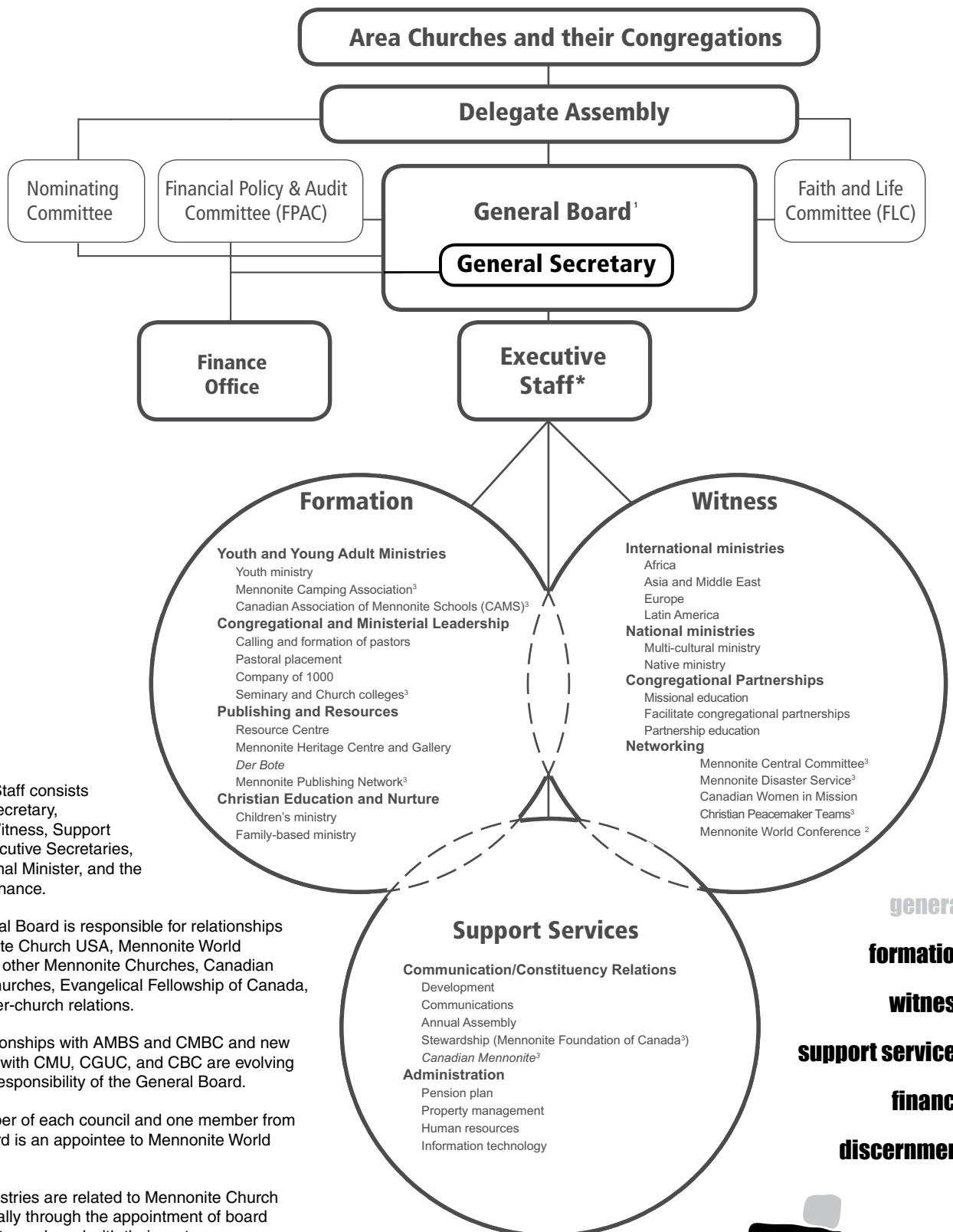
support services

finance

discernment



Mennonite Church Canada Organizational Chart



* Executive Staff consists of General Secretary, Formation, Witness, Support Services Executive Secretaries, Denominational Minister, and the Director of Finance.

1. The General Board is responsible for relationships with Mennonite Church USA, Mennonite World Conference², other Mennonite Churches, Canadian Council of Churches, Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, and other inter-church relations.

Historic relationships with AMBS and CMBC and new relationships with CMU, CGUC, and CBC are evolving and are the responsibility of the General Board.

2. One member of each council and one member from General Board is an appointee to Mennonite World Conference.

3. These ministries are related to Mennonite Church Canada, usually through the appointment of board members, but are shared with their partners.

**general
formation
witness
support services
finance
discernment**



Christian Formation

At a Glance...

Members of Christian Formation Council (2006-2007): Sue Steiner, Ontario, Chair; Jeremy Bergen, Ontario; Naomi Unger, Saskatchewan; Don Rempel-Boschman, Manitoba; Earl Reimer, Manitoba; Lisa Carr-Pries, Ontario; Van Hoa Chau, Manitoba; Veronica Dyck, B.C.; Pauline Steinmann, Saskatchewan; Coreen Froese, Alberta.

Find Resources for Growing Faith online at: www.mennonitechurch.ca/resourcecentre/Home

Guiding principles: Christian Formation seeks to “foster faith in home and congregation” through programs and activities which:

- Nurture congregations
- Foster commitment to the larger church
- Grow disciples
- Promote unity through Anabaptist identity formation

general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment



Introduction

“...Let each carpenter who comes on the job take care to build on the foundation! Remember, there is only one foundation, the one already laid: Jesus Christ. Take particular care in picking out your building materials. ...” - The Message

When setting out to build a building that will last, several things are essential. First, the foundation must be sure and solid; second, the building materials must be of high quality; and third, the building process must be well planned and carefully sequenced. Unless these three elements work closely together, our building will not stand the test of experience and time. In the ministry of Christian Formation we seek to do just that.

The work of nurturing faith in home and congregation is founded on the conviction that Jesus Christ is the only sure foundation on which God’s house can be built. With this principle at the centre, and in partnership with the Holy Spirit, we build up the church with carefully chosen building materials—programs and activities which call, equip and send the church to engage the world with the reconciling gospel of Jesus Christ. On this foundation, Christian Formation builds to last!



John Rempel, Assistant Professor of Theology and Anabaptist Studies at AMBS was guest speaker at the Transforming Congregations in Worship weekend in Saskatchewan in March 2007.

Church-School relationship and vision for education

Together with our church schools, Mennonite Church Canada is shaping God’s people and growing leaders for the church. The presidents of the four post-secondary schools, the Christian Formation Council and the Moderators, Secretaries and Conference Ministers met together in March 2007. Discussion centred on the development of a collaborative, coordinated approach to pastoral leadership training in Canada which would harness the potential of our schools as well as the many opportunities and gifts available in the area churches and congregations of Mennonite Church

Canada. A positive spirit of partnership characterized the discussion. We plan to further explore how we might implement this vision in the near future.

The newly appointed Church-School Reference Council, with representation from the spectrum of our church schools, will focus on strengthening the covenantal ties between the schools and the church and identifying gaps which need to be closed. The Church-School Reference Council will identify and engage other parts of the system to work with specific issues as they are raised. Current members of the Council are Pauline Steinmann, Jeremy Bergen, Terry Schellenberg, Gerald Gerbrandt and Dave Bergen.

Christian Education & Nurture

Whether introducing *Gather ‘Round*, the new Sunday School curriculum from Mennonite Publishing Network, or training the new Area Church Resource Advocates to make resources more accessible and relevant to congregations, the work of forming a people of God is ongoing. Other ways this formative work takes place is in the development of materials for the study of 1 Corinthians 3:11, the preparation of worship resources for at-home use and collaboration across cultures to grow faith in our aboriginal neighbours, the ‘third culture kids’ of Witness workers, or in the post-Christian culture of 21st century Canada.

Ministerial Leadership

The work of the Denominational Minister is essential to calling and growing effective leaders. This is relational work carried out through offering counsel and support, responding to requests for assistance, and linking closely with other members of the 'national building crew'— Area Church leaders, congregations, etc.

Practically speaking, this work is furthered through the call, engagement and placement of new building site leaders (pastors). In 2006, 66 pastoral leaders were connected with 49 different congregations. Currently there are 26 openings and 21 pastoral candidates on the register that goes to each Area Church Minister who makes these available to Congregational Search committees.

Assistance to 'pastoral leaders in formation' is available through the *Company of 1000*. This year \$44,000 was distributed to assist 20 individuals. Support is also provided to leaders and congregations going through a review process (Pastoral Review Resource Packet), guidelines for sabbatical times for renewal, and a "Pastors' Counseling Fund," providing financial support for pastors' wellness needs.

Pastors are uniquely positioned in guiding the church to become global in vision and reality. A global imagination is fostered through IMPaCT (International Mennonite Pastors Coming Together), an initiative which brings International Mennonite pastors to Canada each year, in partnership with the area churches. Participants spend time in study, worship, reflection and structured sharing of experiences around themes of the church today, participating in local church life and worship, and getting acquainted with the hosting area church and MC Canada leadership. This year's IMPaCT is hosted by MC Alberta.

Resource Centre

Many wonderful tools to help leaders form and mold the people of God can be found by getting online with the Resource Centre. Now with e-commerce capability, all Mennonite Publishing Network titles and MC Canada products are available for loan and/or purchase. This includes 'church-building' materials from the Native Ministry and Pastoral Leadership offices, Human Resources/Finance policies, the Heritage Centre, *Equipping* materials, 'best practices', *From Our Churches*, and more.



Resource Advocates: (l-r) Jeff Thiessen (Man.), Lisa Carr-Pries (Eastern Canada), Tracy Brown Ewert (Alta.), and Marion Bueckert (Sask.) are serving as Resource Advocates for Mennonite Church Canada. They invite calls from congregations in their regions to help identify and find help for worship planners, pastors, teachers, and other congregational leaders. Contact information for Resource Advocates can be found at www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/153. MC Canada is working to fill a vacant position in B.C.

At a Glance...

Staff: Christian Formation's multi-faceted work is served by a capable, dedicated team of staff. We are thankful for the energy they bring to their ministry and for the stability we have experienced. In all we have 13 staff representing full and part time positions. These are: **Dave Bergen**, Executive Secretary; **Lois Bergen**, Administrative Assistant; **Sven Eriksson**, Denominational Minister; **Elsie Rempel**, Christian Education & Nurture Director; **Arlyn Friesen-Epp**, Resource Centre Manager; **Anita Neufeld**, Administrative Assistant, Resource Centre; **Alf Redekopp**, Mennonite Heritage Centre Director; **Conrad Stoesz**, Mennonite Heritage Centre Archivist; **Ray Dirks**, Mennonite Heritage Centre Gallery Curator; **Connie Wiebe**, Administrative Assistant, Mennonite Heritage Centre & Youth Ministries; **Ingrid Janzen Lamp**, Editor, *Der Bote*; **Anna Rehan**, Youth Ministry Facilitator; **Andrea Dick**, Typesetter, *Der Bote*.

general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment



What you've said about the Resource Centre:

From Alberta: "I found your presentations very powerful and effective in helping me live in the story more and have the story live in me more. I'm glad you are able to do this kind of ministry. I think it brought quite a bit of reinvigorating energy to our worship. It certainly inspires me to keep exploring how art, creativity and worship can combine in new and wonderful ways."

From Saskatchewan: "I just wanted to say thank you so very much for the resources you offer. We used a downloadable dramatic reading for our ecumenical Good Friday Service. We had lots of good comments from all people in all three churches. Thank you for providing this service and the material for us to use. I also appreciate using your book library. It is so nice to be able to read so many good books without having to buy them first. May God bless you in this wonderful service you provide."

From Manitoba: "Thank you also for the healing package you sent to our church – some very good stuff there that I think we can use – thanks for the good work you do – you have no idea how helpful you are in the ongoing work of our church – and I'm sure many other churches."

"I appreciated your passion for discipleship and worship. You have given me and others some meaty matters on which to chew. I was also moved by your own emotional investment in the topic, especially evident to me as you talked about worship... Your practical breakout assignment also was effective in giving people a new idea of roles vs gifts. Thanks."

general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment



Traffic to this 'church-building supply centre' continues to be strong. Circulation of materials and online reservations are both on the increase. Subscriptions to the monthly *Resource Update* doubled in 2006 to about 350 subscribers. This is in addition to the regular *Equipping* mailing. Recently a constituent wrote: "This format of the *Resource Update* is very attractive and user friendly. Nice job. The problem is that you're always showing me more and more things that I haven't read and want to or should! I guess that's not your fault though, right?"

Volunteer Area Church Resource Advocates have been appointed (a position for a representative for MCBC remains vacant) and are helping promote MC Canada and MPN resources in their area congregations and report back to us about congregational resource needs. In addition, Resource Centre Manager Arlyn Friesen Epp continues to be invited to provide resource and consultation to congregations across Canada, especially in the area of creative worship.

Der Bote

This German language paper has formed the people of God through spiritual nurture and a sense of connection to many people since its inception in Rosthern, Saskatchewan in 1924 as *Der Mennonitische Immigrantentbote*. In 2006, due to declining subscribership and shrinking funds, a decision was made to cease publication of *Der Bote* in early 2008. The magazine's 84+ years of ministry will be celebrated



The Der Bote editorial committee met for the last time on April 17, 2007. l-r: Lois Bergen (Administrative Assistant for Der Bote), Helen Franz, Therese Bergen, Andrea Dick (Typesetter), Dave Bergen (Executive Secretary, Christian Formation), Ingrid Janzen Lamp (Editor), Dick Epp. Missing: John R. Friesen.

in a closing series of special articles and with special recognition at the 2008 Assembly. Much gratitude is due current staff (Ingrid Janzen Lamp, Editor; Lois Bergen, Administrative Assistant; and Andrea Dick, Typesetter) for their continuing leadership and to all who have contributed to the strong legacy of *Der Bote*. Their hard work, gifts and dedicated prayers have brought blessings to many.

Mennonite Heritage Centre Archives & Gallery

The Archives gathers, preserves, and shares the stories of the Mennonite people – their families, churches and institutions – in order to learn from the past and be guided for the future. This is church-building, church-forming work and is expressed in activities such as:

- Hosting over 50 guests monthly – historical and academic researchers, family genealogists and others interested in the Mennonite church story.
- Receiving and cataloging a variety of family, church, and institutional records. One unique current project is the acquisition of the entire collection of materials held by Mennonite Genealogy Inc. of Winnipeg, a collection begun by the descendants of A.A. Vogt (Steinbach, MB).

- Editing and updating of articles for the Global Mennonite Encyclopedia Online (GAMEO), a project managed by five partners – Mennonite Historical Society of Canada (of which MC Canada is a member), Mennonite Church USA Historical Committee, Mennonite Brethren Historical Commission (a bi-national organization), MCC International and Mennonite World Conference.
- Participating in the planning of the “War and the Conscientious Objector” conference held at the University of Winnipeg, Oct. 20-21, 2006.
- Gratitude for the passion of dedicated volunteers who assist with translation, cataloging and a variety of other tasks. We note with deep sadness the death of Jake K. Wiens, who worked faithfully as a volunteer at the MHC for over 20 years.
- Maintaining and improving the physical home for our stories. Facility improvements include the installation of new ramped entrance walks on the north and south sides of the building as well as the replacement of the north side doors. The original doors, hand-carved by P.W. Enns, have been restored and are on permanent display inside the Centre. In addition, the installation of a smoke and fire detection system for the Gallery and Archives was completed.



Alf Redekopp, Director of the Mennonite Heritage Centre, examines a meticulously inscribed Latin hymn book. “Menno Simons must have used books very similar to this,” he says. Redekopp oversees the collection and care of valuable historical documents that enable today’s generations to learn from our past.

A unique ministry of the Mennonite Heritage Centre is the Gallery where curator Ray Dirks continues to nurture the global identity and connections of MC Canada through diverse art exhibits and presentations to congregations across Canada as well as numerous schools and community groups. Exhibits in 2006 have featured work from Congo, Ghana, Germany, and Australia as well as art by Mennonite and other artists in Canada. The Gallery serves as an important bridge joining under-served communities – cultural, religious and ethnic – to the Mennonite church and the church at large.

What you’ve said about the Archives:

“Hello, I wanted to thank you for your wonderful website and information. I am currently teaching a Grade 6 unit in Social Studies (which covers WW1 & 2) in Kola, MB. I have been trying to find information which is historically accurate, relevant and still respectful of the children’s Mennonite heritage. Thank you for providing it! We will definitely be using some of your activities and resources in class.”

What’s been said about the Gallery:

Note from Curator Ray Dirks: “On Friday _____ dropped by to see me. With a few tears in her eyes she said, ‘I’m so happy. No one has ever done this for me before. I don’t even care if the grant works out, just to know that you are doing all this work for me is enough.’ I hope/pray _____ is one of those connections we can make here that are under the radar but making a difference. She is a devout Hindu who would never consider going to church but is gaining an increasingly positive view of Mennonites through her connecting here.”

general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment





Anna Rehan, Youth Ministries Facilitator.

What you've said about Christian Education & Nurture:

From Manitoba: "I would like to thank you for your contribution to our Equipping Conference this past Saturday. I appreciated your passion for the work of Christian formation. Your creative way of explaining the multiple intelligences turned some new lights on for me. Your practical breakout assignments gave everybody a chance to try something new in their walk with God. ... Mennonite Church Canada is fortunate to have a gifted and hard working person like you on their team. God bless as you continue to serve."

general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment

Youth Ministry

If you want to 'build to last' it is best to do a quality job from the very beginning. The Youth Ministry work of Mennonite Church Canada connects growing young disciples and leaders to the work of God across the street and around the world. Through the planning and support of the biennial Canadian Youth Assembly, strong ties are built between youth and the church. Opportunities to learn, lead, serve, and partner with Area Church leaders help us together discern the direction and focus of youth ministry for the future.

Partners in Christian Formation Ministry

In addition to the various program areas under the direct jurisdiction of Mennonite Church Canada, we are linked to important building partners with unique gifts and skills, without whose work the house we build would not be complete. These include:

- Mennonite Publishing Network
- Mennonite Camping Association
- Mennonite Creation Care Network
- Mennonite Post-secondary schools: Canadian Mennonite University, Columbia Bible College, Conrad Grebel University College, Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary
- Canadian Association of Mennonite Schools, which represents Mennonite Elementary & Secondary schools including United Mennonite Educational Institute, Rockway Mennonite Collegiate, Westgate Mennonite Collegiate, Mennonite Collegiate Institute, Winnipeg Mennonite Elementary Schools, Rosthern Junior College, Menno Simons Christian School, Mennonite Educational Institute
- North American Young Adult Fellowship

Challenges and opportunities

"One foundation," together with the right materials and wise builders – these three combine to build a church that will last. But the challenges and opportunities continue. Some of the things we see ahead are:

- Translating the vision for a Canadian pastoral/church leadership model into a practical entity which brings the many interests, needs and gifts of the church together into a comprehensive whole.
- Focusing the office of Denominational Minister in this time of transition so as to serve the leadership needs of the church for the future.
- Continuing to employ the gifts of Formation staff in resourcing Area Churches and congregations.
- Discerning the role of national youth ministry leadership in an increasingly localized ministry context.
- Inspiring, motivating and equipping God's people to truly and fully engage the world with the reconciling gospel of Jesus Christ.

–Sue Steiner, Christian Formation Council Chair and Dave Bergen, Executive Secretary, Christian Formation



Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS)

An emphasis in the past year has been construction of a new library and campus centre, designed to be a high performance green building. AMBS hopes to model the ways in which sustainable building practices demonstrate our love for God, maintain costs, and reverse ecological damage.

AMBS also offers resources and non-traditional programs for the church:

Learning and sabbatical opportunities for people already in ministry through the AMBS Church Leadership Center.

Undergraduate ministry training with programs such as the conference-based Multicultural Leadership Education effort in Ontario and Manitoba.

!Explore: A Theological Program for High School Youth that encourages them to listen for God's call.

Engaging Pastors projects which bring pastors and seminary professors together for collaborative work.

Books, journals, and publications from the Institute of Mennonite Studies featuring Mennonite perspectives on worship, peacemaking, evangelism, and discipleship. *Take our Moments and our Days: An Anabaptist Prayer Book* is a recent project which many congregations and small groups are finding valuable.

Opening up the Bible

"I discovered that I love to preach and lead worship and that I have gifts in these areas," Charleen Jongejan Harder says. She and Kendall, her husband, have both been studying in the Master of Divinity program at AMBS since the fall of 2005.

"When I started studying the biblical languages I found the Bible open up to me in exciting ways," she continued.

Charleen and Kendall worked together last summer as pastors of a church when the regular pastor was on sabbatical. Kendall says he discovered "the immense privilege of entering into people's lives ... the gift of people opening their lives to me."



Kendall & Charleen Jongejan Harder

AMBS is giving these and many other students an essential foundation for the ministry they will do as they answer God's call. AMBS is now involved in a vigorous review of curriculum and strategic direction. Along with 23 other seminaries, we are exploring how we can orient our teaching and work toward the mission of God in the world. We ask for your prayers as we shape missional leaders for the church – leaders who will be instruments of the Holy Spirit in guiding the church for the next two, three or four decades.

—Mary Klassen

At a Glance...

Mission: AMBS serves the church as a learning community with an Anabaptist vision, educating followers of Jesus Christ to be leaders for God's reconciling mission in the world.

Ministry activities and goals: AMBS offers graduate level theological and ministry education to prepare leaders for the church. Work toward an AMBS degree is possible through extension sites such as the Winnipeg Centre for Ministry Studies and through online courses.

Average annual budget: \$4.1 million CDN. In 2005–2006, 22.5 percent (\$453,408 CDN) of contributions to AMBS came from individuals, congregations and organizations in Canada. This funding is received from supporters giving through MC Canada as well as directly to AMBS.

Reporting to: The AMBS Board of Directors comprises eighteen members including four from MC Canada: Ray Friesen, Kathy Koop, Noreen Neufeld and Waldo Neufeld.

Officers: President: J. Nelson Kraybill; Academic Dean: Loren L. Johns; Vice President: Ron Ringenberg; Chief Financial Officer: Jeff L. Miller; Associated Dean for Leadership Education: Jewel Gingerich Longenecker.

general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment



Canadian Mennonite University (CMU)

“CMU is helping me understand Christ’s story in my own life. I have greatly appreciated the classes, the guest lecturers, the discussion with classmates and teachers, and the books I have read. Like the potter sculpting clay, God is using CMU to sculpt me in a new way.”
—Lucas Redekop, Floradale, Ontario

Serving the Church: Canadian Mennonite University

Lucas’ comment sums up well the mission of CMU: To provide students with opportunities for God to transform and equip them for “lives of service, leadership and reconciliation in church and society.” Our goal is to not only prepare students for satisfying careers, but to help them prepare for fulfilling lives.

At CMU, we believe that fulfilling lives are only possible when people are oriented to serving others. CMU may be student centred, but it is church and world-oriented. We strive to graduate students who can think creatively, critically, and biblically about the issues confronting the world today – students who are committed to knowing and following Jesus in all they do. In the end, this is the best way we can serve everyone – students, church and society – and contribute to the building of the church.

Highlights

It was a great year, enrolment-wise, with a record 2009 students: 474 at the Main Campus, 97 in Outtatown, 39 in seminary studies and 1,399 taking one course or more at Menno Simons College, our campus at the University of Winnipeg. Of our full-time students, 55 percent are from Mennonite churches, with 141 coming from Mennonite Church Canada congregations. This mix of denominations gives CMU a rich diversity of church traditions and experiences.

A total of 55 students did practicum assignments this past year – a requirement to graduate from CMU. Since

general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment

2000, when CMU began, 385 students have done practicum assignments, 86 of them in congregational settings.

A survey of students found that academics, quality of the faculty, a desire to grow in faith, and the importance of community life (in that order) were the most important reasons for selecting CMU; and that students are quite satisfied with their education at CMU, giving the university

excellent ratings for the quality of teaching, availability of professors, facilities, and the value for money of their studies. The survey also found that family, friends, and church are the most influential group for students when making a decision to come to CMU.

CMU also served Mennonite Church Canada through our biennial Church in Ministry Seminar; through Vision, A Journal for Church and Theology (sent free to every congregation); through Portable CMU, which provides short courses for congregations; by inspiring students to consider pastoral ministry – and then giving them the tools they need to do it; through Refreshing Winds, our biennial worship and music conference; and through deputations to congregations with choirs and other groups.


New Program Initiatives

A Business and Organization Administration program is on the way; Communications is developing as a distinct program area; and we are having discussions with Mennonite Disaster Service about a concentration in Disaster Recovery Management. In September, we will offer an Honours program in International Development Studies and an M.A. program in theology. In May, we held our first School of Writing, with acclaimed writer Rudy Wiebe and Manitoba poet Sarah Klassen.

Conclusion

CMU is a venture in faith, with a commitment to serve the church and make a difference on behalf of the church in a hurting world. We could not achieve this without the students, resources and personnel support contributed by MC Canada. Ruth Friesen represents MC Canada on the Board, with 14 others on the CMU Council. MC Canada provides roughly 3% of the \$11 million CMU budget. Thank-you, MC Canada, for helping make CMU possible. Through CMU, you provide quality Christian university education to students from MC Canada and beyond—enabling them to be leaders and ministers in the future.

As we look to the future, we invite your continued support, counsel, and advocacy.



Gerald Gerbrandt, President



Columbia Bible College (CBC)

Reporting to: Columbia Bible College Board comprised of BCMB and MCBC members.

Highlights:

- Celebrating 70 years of ministry, 25 as jointly-owned with Mennonite Brethren and Mennonite Church conferences.
- 500 students, graduating 40 BA grads this spring.
- Accreditation reaffirmed with the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE).
- Working with senior leadership searches.
- Worship and Arts Peace Festival, cosponsored with area churches and BC MCC last fall.
- First Worship Arts “Global semester” with students visiting Taize, L-Abri, Churches, and Iona Community this past spring.
- Alumni Relations – Hired Alumni Relations Director (Adel Klassen) and increased attention to this area.
- Outreach to youth of the region – Inter-Collegiate worship evening and City-wide Rally.
- The Student body affirmed a new Student Association constitution.
- Four Urban Mission Outreaches to Vancouver; two missions to Mexico, an MDS project in New Orleans, and mission trips to India, Africa, and Brazil.
- 12 Mission interns spread around the globe for their “one-year internship.”
- Men’s Basketball team achieved national ranking in NCCAA and placed 3rd in BCCAA Provincials.
- Design and preliminary work on a new on-campus Residence to replace those taken down during Student-Centre expansion.
- Prepared new College video (available at www.columbiabc.edu/admissions).

–Shirley Esau on behalf of CBC



At a Glance...

Activity/Program: Post-secondary Education
– One, Two, and Four-year programs focused on Discipleship, and Ministry Preparation, and Enrichment. Ministry preparation areas include: Biblical Studies, Caregiving & Counselling, Early Childhood Education, Inter-cultural Studies, Outdoor Leadership, Worship Arts, and Youth Work.

Ministry goals and objectives: Columbia’s mission is to prepare people for a life of discipleship, service, and ministry. We seek to encourage Christ-followers, develop a servant-heart and style in all, and equip people for ministries for the church and marketplace.

Average Annual Budget:
\$5.3 M



general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment



Conrad Grebel University College (CGUC)

At a Glance...

Focus Statement: Where tradition and innovation meet

Average Annual Budget: \$5.3 million

Ministry goals and objectives: Conrad Grebel University College is a Christian educational institution informed by the vision and values of the Mennonite tradition and dedicated to serving students, the university community, the church, and society.

Activity:

Undergraduate Arts Education: In the 2006-07 academic year, Grebel taught 3,717 University of Waterloo (UW) undergraduate students in over 100 courses. The Music program accounts for 47% of this activity, Peace and Conflict Studies 23%, Religious Studies 13%, and other Arts courses 17%.

Graduate Theological Studies: Conrad Grebel has signed an agreement which will bring the Master of Theological Studies (MTS) degree into UW's Graduate Studies program. Students will graduate with a conjoint Grebel-University of Waterloo degree and the program will become eligible for government funding. Grebel will continue to be responsible for admissions, program design and delivery, and faculty appointments. This partnership will provide MTS students with fuller access to the services and resources of the University, as well as provincial graduate student financial aid. This year there were 35 students registered in the program and 14 others, mostly pastors, auditing courses. Approximately one third of the MTS students are in the Ministry Option. Many graduates will pursue further academic studies or work in church institutions. Grebel also administers the Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre which provides an academic program and collegial connections for over 30 graduate students at the Toronto School of Theology and the University of Toronto.

Residence Program: Grebel is home to over 220 undergraduate students who will earn their degree from one of six faculties at the University of Waterloo. There are 142 beds in the residence and 32 in the apartments. Many "associate students" who live off campus also participate in College life. We continue to attract Mennonite students from across North America.

general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment



Searching for Peace –Cassandra Mathies, Chilliwack, BC

While travelling and volunteering overseas after high school, Cassie became more passionate about peace and justice issues and began to explore universities that had an excellent program in Peace Studies. This search led her to Conrad Grebel's Peace and Conflict Studies (PACS) Program.

"I love living in dynamic environments and I found while looking for residences that Grebel offers that kind of community," observed Cassie. "Grebel provides opportunities for spiritual, academic, and personal growth. I was also attracted by Grebel's unique community within the larger university. The community atmosphere is definitely the best part of living here. I was also attracted to the University of Waterloo through Grebel's Peace and Conflict Studies program. I like that it is part of such a reputable university."

In her first year, Cassie has been involved in a variety of programs at Conrad Grebel, including Chapel leadership, Community Suppers, the Peace Society and PACS Collective, and a number of courses in the PACS program.

"Grebel instills in its students a sense of self and really encourages personal growth and becoming a part of the larger vision of College," Cassie concludes. "The Peace and Conflict Studies courses have had a profound impact on my world view and my career path."

–Henry Paetkau, President



"Moving to another city is always a bit unnerving, but I really feel like I have a support system here at Grebel from student services and the relationships I have cultivated with my fellow students."
– Cassandra Mathies

Canadian Association of Mennonite Schools (CAMS)

The Canadian Association of Mennonite Schools (CAMS) is a unique organization that crosses denominational boundaries with member schools coming from Mennonite Church Canada area churches as well as Mennonite Brethren and Evangelical Mennonite Conferences. CAMS includes Elementary, Junior High, and High Schools from British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario.

CAMS' primary purpose is to assist each member school in serving students with effective school programs, taught within the framework of our Anabaptist heritage. Each CAMS school includes their provincial education curriculum and additional instruction in Christian Studies, Chapels, and opportunity for service in their community and wider world.

Our schools play a vital role in the life of our young people and our churches. We offer academic challenge and opportunities to be involved in sports, drama, choirs, and student leadership. Learning, solid academics, and opportunities are very important, but there is more to CAMS schools.

The role of our CAMS schools also includes building character and nurturing a particular Christian worldview. Our learning – our minds and skills and abilities – are a gift from God. Our gifts exist so that in our wondering and questioning and creating, we can serve others in love.

Our worldview needs to encompass both the head and the heart – our academic knowledge and skill and our compassion and will to use them for the benefit of others. CAMS schools are here to bear testimony that our learning matters most when our hearts are touched and our characters as children of God are formed. This link defines the difference that we hope our students will experience.

Regular Events

In addition to regular meetings of its school administrators, CAMS focuses on two major events. One of the events is the **National Music Festival**, which takes place every four years and involves over four hundred students and staff from most member schools to reflect the strong music tradition that is integral to the Mennonite faith tradition.

The second major event is the **National Teachers' Conference**, which takes place every three years, gathering teachers from CAMS schools across the country to provide Professional Development and connections to teachers.

Current Challenges and Celebrations

We need to be educationally innovative and excellent. We need to work at consistently modeling love and restoration. Our church schools exist precisely because of a people and a faith story that says children need these faith roots. Differences in young people's lives happen when academic learning becomes more than an end in itself and is celebrated as a natural gateway into the important stuff of our lives. Differences happen for students when we nurture relationships within community and within our vision as a people of faith.

God has shown us an alternative vision of acceptance and grace – rooted in our relationship with God and in the life and teaching of Jesus. Our church schools are making important differences in the lives of students and for the life of the church. This needs to be celebrated!

–Gail Schellenberg, outgoing CAMS Chair

CAMS Members:

Mennonite Brethren
Collegiate Institute
– Winnipeg, MB

Mennonite Collegiate
Institute
– Gretna, MB

Menno Simons Christian
School – Calgary, AB

Mennonite Educational
Institute – Abbotsford, BC

Niagara Christian
Collegiate
– Fort Erie, ON

Rockway Mennonite
Collegiate
– Kitchener, ON

Rosthern Junior College
– Rosthern, SK

Steinbach Christian High
School – Steinbach, MB

United Mennonite
Educational Institute
– Leamington, ON

Westgate Mennonite
Collegiate
– Winnipeg, MB

Winnipeg Mennonite
Elementary Schools
– Winnipeg, MB

general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment



Mennonite Publishing Network (MPN)

Home of Faith & Life Resources and Herald Press

A ministry of Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church USA



At a Glance...

Ministry goals and objectives: To provide materials that equip the church to experience and share the gospel from an Anabaptist perspective. To provide simple access to materials that shape Christian identity and mission in a Canadian and U.S. Mennonite context.

Reporting to: Mennonite Publishing Network board (with 3 from MC Canada and 5 from MC USA) and to the Joint Executive Committee of Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church USA. Chair of the MPN board is Phil Bontrager (OH); vice-chair and treasurer is Laverne Brubacher (ON). The other two Canadian board members: Abe Bergen (MB), Dan Jack (AB).

Financial picture: In the fall of 2006, MPN was able to completely repay a loan from MC Canada—well ahead of the scheduled 2012 repayment date. The loan was repaid with the proceeds from the sale of the Provident bookstore chain.

The current MPN budget is around \$3.5 million. About 95% of revenue is from the sale of published material. The remaining 5% comes from donations to the Resource Development Fund. Thanks to the many individuals and churches who have donated to the fund in the past year!

Ministry highlights:

- This past year, after MPN published Psalms, the 20th volume in the *Believers Church Bible Commentary* series, the *Mennonite Weekly Review* editorialized: “[The commentary] is a prime example of a denominational publisher’s value to the church. We can find other good Bible commentaries. But the only way to get one that fits our distinct theology is to have our own publisher produce it. The same is true of Sunday school curriculum and many other books and resources.”
- Materials being published with the Faith & Life Resources imprint include: *Gather 'Round* curriculum; *Adult Bible Study* (Uniform lessons); *Leader, Rejoice!*; *Purpose, With*; Bible reading record books; and other resources.
- The *Gather 'Round* Sunday school curriculum, which began in the fall of 2006, is being used by about two-thirds of congregations in MC Canada. The focus on church-home connections is getting high marks. A number of other denominations are becoming cooperative users.
- Herald Press is the imprint for most books published by MPN. The Herald Press catalog includes about 400 active titles, with 15 to 20 of them published new each year. The total Herald Press catalogue includes: 31% of titles in church life and mission and church history; 28% in Bible, theology, ethics, peace and justice; 26% in family relationships, children and youth; 14% on Amish/Mennonite life, fiction, cookbooks.
- All of the MPN materials are available directly from MPN via a toll free order line and also by internet. In Canada, online availability is through the Mennonite Church Canada Resource Centre website. Most of the MPN materials – except for dated curriculum and periodicals – are also available through bookstores across the country.

—Ron Rempel, Executive Director, MPN

general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment



Mennonite Creation Care Network (MCCN)

Caring for God's creation has been a part of the Mennonite Church's official agenda since 1977, when it passed a resolution on Christian Stewardship of Energy Resources.

In 2005, MC Canada and MC USA appointed representatives to the Mennonite Creation Care Network. MCCN is a network for Mennonite people and agencies actively engaged in the care and restoration of God's creation. It will encourage the Church to:

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

This bi-national council of volunteers meets face-to-face twice per year. Staff from the Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center (Goshen College) and from Mennonite Mutual Aid (MMA) provide continuity between meetings and manage a web-site for MCCN. With its stewardship emphasis, MMA is a natural partner and currently MCCN's biggest financial supporter. Mennonite Church Canada and MCC Canada help defray travel costs of the two Canadian members.

MCCN's current activities include: developing communications materials, collecting stories of Mennonites who care about the environment, building a network among those in our constituency for whom the environment is an ongoing concern, and recognizing and encouraging faithful stewardship through an annual creation care award.

—David Neufeld



David Neufeld, one of two MC Canada's representative to Mennonite Creation Care Network, enjoys the mountains.

At a Glance...

Canadian members:

David Neufeld (Winnipeg, MB), Joanne Moyer (Winnipeg, MB)

USA members:

Greg Bowman (Bally, PA), Luke Gascho (Goshen, IN), Jennifer Halteman Schrock (Goshen, IN), Dave Hockman-Wert (Corvallis, OR), Jim Smith (Goshen, IN), Amy Thut (Goshen, IN).

To join the growing network or get more information:

www.mennocreationcare.org

general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment



Christian Witness

At a Glance...

Members of Christian Witness Council:

Andy Ahn, Manitoba; Irene Crosland, Alberta; Rudy Dirks, Ontario; Ernest Epp, Saskatchewan; Eryn Enns, Saskatchewan; Noe Gonzalia, Ontario; Laura Loewen, British Columbia; Willard Metzger, Ontario, chair; John David (JD) Penner, Ontario; Dori Zerbe Cornelsen, Manitoba.

In this world of cybernetic optimism and globalization, in this world where the individual is exalted, where the ozone layer can no longer be counted on to protect the earth for generations to come, where success is measured in dollars and distance is measured in nano-seconds, where relationships are disposable, and rape is now widely used as a weapon of war, where freedom is thought to be purchased with blood, in this world...

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

It is that simple. It is that challenging. So challenging that it will take a life time – our life time – to live it out. We are convinced that the plan of God to restore and reconcile the world is clear; to bring *all* things together in Jesus Christ, things in heaven and on earth (Eph 1:10). We are convinced that God meant what is said in Ephesians 2:14, that he *himself* is our peace, and that God is about the work of bringing un-reconciled groups together into one new humanity.



Some of the Witness Council and staff gather at 2007 Leadership Assembly

It is amazing that the omniscient, omnipotent God of creation has chosen not to go it alone. God's strategy is to empower and call forth the gifts of the people of God and put them to work for this purpose. *That is, God's instrument in the world to bring about reconciliation is God's people: the church.* And however scary it may feel, that means you and me and a whole lot of other ordinary folk like us. Partnering with the church, in Canada and in over 30 countries around the world, is critical to embracing our God-given vocation. Witness staff is deeply dedicated to building these relationships.

Mennonite Church Canada Witness has been actively involved with the rest of the MC Canada system in seeking to understand our context and be faithful stewards of our time and resources as we work within the scope of our priorities.

general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment

Forming a People of God

- Together with Formation, we hosted a two weekend course entitled *God's People Now! Transforming Congregations in Worship*. Ten congregational teams participated.
- Congregational Partnership staff resourced congregations through weekend workshops, presentations, visioning sessions, and work sessions.
- Our staff coordinated a multi-faceted effort of solidarity, which resulted in a Colombian pastor under death threat, Jaime Meza, being given shelter and rest for 6 months in Saskatchewan. Jaime helped nurture a new Spanish Mennonite fellowship here. What a tremendous exchange of gifts within the people of God!
- We have taken very seriously the 2006 delegate resolution to urge our government to enact legislation which would allow conscientious objectors to direct the military



portion of their taxes to activities of development and peace. We are hosting a discernment session on this topic at this Assembly. In addition we have suggested a significant rewrite of a bill that was presented before the House of Commons on this topic. Bill Siksay, the Honorable Member of Parliament from Burnaby North has agreed to embrace this bill and hopes to introduce it in parliament this year.

- We launched out into the radio world with a monthly program entitled *Church Matters*. Dan Dyck and Janet Plenert co-host the show and focus on the question of how the church matters in our society today. The show airs Sunday mornings at 8:45 in Manitoba. You can listen on the internet at www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/158.
- Together with MC Saskatchewan, we supported the formation of a storefront, drop-in ministry centre in downtown Prince Albert, home to a large Aboriginal population in the city.
- We are translating ideas and understanding from one cultural paradigm to another via our Multi-Cultural ministries. Samson Lo spends time building relationships, networking, and producing a Multi-Cultural Ministries Newsletter.
- We produce INTOTEMAK magazine quarterly and have a growing Aboriginal and congregational readership.
- Our staff and Witness workers were welcomed into about 156 congregations this year, in addition to the visits made during the *God's People Now! Listening Tour*.

Becoming a Global Church

- IMPaCT (International Mennonite Pastors Coming Together) is a two week program that brings together international Mennonite leaders and pairs them with MC Canada pastors from one area church for a time of learning and bridge building. Because of IMPaCT 2006, the Paraguayan church is now in direct contact with the Spanish Mennonite church about doing outreach together. Congregations in Manitoba say they listen to world news differently. One Manitoba pastor has begun Spanish lessons and another visited Uruguay, worshipping with Mennonites there as part of developing a deeper understanding of how we form part of the same body of Christ. IMPaCT 2007 has recently concluded in MC Alberta with leaders from 5 countries participating together with MC Alberta pastors. We look forward to seeing the "impact" that these new relationships and enlarged world-views will have on MC Canada and our international guests.
- A variety of learning tour experiences have been facilitated this past year. Several congregations sponsored their own exchange visits with partners. It has been a privilege to assist where possible in these experiences while fully facilitating group learning tours to Macau, Colombia and Southern Africa. Participants are helping their congregations reshape how we are part of the Global church.



Titus Guenther, CMU Professor, spent his sabbatical on a Mennonite Church Canada assignment teaching new and developing church leaders in Chile (Aug-Dec 2006).

Christian Witness Staff:

Janet Plenert, Executive Secretary; **Jennifer Rempel**, Executive Assistant (currently on maternity leave); **Ingrid Miller**, Administrative Assistant; **Tim Froese**, Executive Director for International Ministries and Mission Facilitator for Latin America; **Hippolyto Tshimanga**, Mission Partnership Facilitator for Africa & Europe; **Gordon Janzen**, Mission Partnership Facilitator for Asia; **Edith and Neill Von Gunten**, Co-Directors of Native Ministry; **Rebecca Yoder Neufeld**, Missional Formation & Partnerships Facilitator for Mennonite Church Eastern Canada; **Eric Olfert**, Missional Formation & Partnerships Facilitator for Mennonite Church Saskatchewan; **Marvin Baergen**, Missional Formation & Partnerships Facilitator for Mennonite Church Alberta; **Hinke Loewen-Rudgers**, Congregational Partnership Facilitator; **Al Rempel**, Director of Congregational Partnerships; **Samson Lo**, Director of Multi-Cultural Ministry.

Total of 14 staff persons in full and part time positions.

general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment



“There was a brief discussion at one point about language and the terms ‘ethnic’ and ‘non-ethnic’ Mennonite... But why not simply say Russian-Mennonite when that’s what we mean, or Swiss-Russian, or Chinese-Mennonite church, or German-speaking, or English-speaking, or Spanish-speaking, or first-generation Canadian, new immigrant, etc, depending on what we mean? I don’t use ‘ethnic’ and ‘non-ethnic’ language and don’t see any reason to do so. So I’m wondering if that’s troublesome – and I think it is – I think there are lots of other options. Personally, the emphasis on ethnicity sometimes makes me uneasy – as if people somehow want to draw a line and define me as the ‘Other’ instead of realizing that in Jesus Christ, we are all one body, one people, one ‘ethnos’”. – *observation from a constituent*



Sarah Thompson, Mennonite World Conference guest on “Church Matters”, MC Canada’s new radio program.

- The president of the Union of Evangelical Baptist Churches in Chile (a denomination of approximately 30,000 members) recently told us that they were looking to clarify their identity. She said, “We think we are Anabaptist...that we want to be a peace church.” Witness has begun a relationship with this denomination and plans are being made to visit and discern how we can relate together.

between Muslims and Christians at the same time it helps groups work together in partnership here in Canada. Daniel and Joji Pantoja observed talks between government and para-military groups during their first year of ministry.

- Ministry in Philippines is breaking walls of hostility
- By participating in the Global Mission Fellowship we have committed ourselves to higher levels of global collaboration, but it also brings us face to face with the financial imbalance within the global family of faith.
- After some deliberate networking and relationship building, one of our Chinese congregations modified their holiday trip to Hong Kong to a learning trip, which included a visit to workers and churches in Hong Kong and Macau. There was great excitement about this!



Transforming Congregations in Worship Weekend (March 2007, Saskatchewan)

Growing Leaders for the Church

- We are continuing discussions about partnering together in training and preparing church leaders for Colombia and Cuba, among other places.
- Our Congregational Partnership staff has been engaging congregations in partnerships that are transforming leaders by shaping and growing how they view ministry through the eyes of partners internationally and in North America.
- Titus Guenther served on assignment in Chile while on a sabbatical from CMU. Gordon Matties went to Israel to explore the development of a peace studies program at Mar Elias Educational Institute, in Ibillin, Galilee.

- We are producing an educational resource box to build bridges with Aboriginal peoples. This box can be borrowed from the Resource Centre and is geared to pre-teens.
- We worked with leaders across Canada in our Transforming Congregations in Worship course, and through numerous formal and informal workshops and seminars that staff led.
- Most of our International Ministries workers daily help shape the lives of leaders and future leaders of church.
- We are facilitating and encouraging leadership training among our newer and non-English speaking congregations. There is little that we do that does not somehow grow leaders for the church, here in Canada and around the world!

general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment



Celebrating with the Church Around the World

It is gratifying to celebrate notable milestones of ministry partners. In the last year we celebrated several such events, among them:

- China Educational Exchange (now re-named “Mennonite Partners in China”) celebrated 25 years of ministry.
- Korea Anabaptist Center (KAC) celebrated 5 years of Anabaptist ministry in Korea.
- Jesus Village Church (Korea), the first Anabaptist congregation in Korea, celebrated 10 years.
- Evangelical Missionary Church of Cuba celebrated 10 years, and has passionately rooted itself in the Anabaptist understanding of the gospel.
- Niedergoersdorf Congregation (Germany) celebrated 10 years.
- Hong Kong Mennonite Church celebrated 30 years and is doing outreach internationally.
- CEMTA (Mennonite Theological Centre of Asuncion) Paraguay marked its 50th year.

Extending our Reach

Witness has the privilege of working with many partners in Canada and around the world. The ministries of these bodies extend the reach of our ministry possibilities. A few of these are:

- Congregations who are collaboratively partnering with Witness to touch lives in over 30 countries.
- Mennonite Mission Network is our key partner in the USA. We continue to work collaboratively to strengthen and extend our international ministries efforts.
- Global Mission Fellowship – this body has decided to work towards becoming a commission of Mennonite World Conference. We believe this is critically important for the future of the global church in mission. While we struggle with the reality that MWC will most likely also create a Peace commission, thus appearing to separate the agenda of mission and peace, we rejoice that the mission efforts will be held within and not parallel to the global church. MC Canada continues to be significantly involved with that effort. Janet Plenert was named chair of the Global Mission Fellowship at the September meeting in Almaty, Kazakhstan and Eric Olfert is working as part-time Planning Assistant to the GMF Planning Committee.



Ken Bechtel, Donita Wiebe-Neufeld, and Marvin Baergen share a laugh at the Transforming Congregations in Worship weekend in Saskatchewan (March 2007).

“I would just like to say that this was a wonderful experience for me, both as a teenager and as a member of my congregation and the committees therein. This experience made me feel like I was part of something bigger than just our church... something I had really never thought of before. I enjoyed meeting, talking to and being surrounded by people who all shared my beliefs, values and lifestyle choices. As compared to the variety of high school, this variety, though sometimes intimidating, was comforting and welcoming. I also learned a lot and came home with some stories to tell, which is always a welcome bonus!” – *comment from a 2006 Missional Formation Seminar participant*

“I just really did not know what to expect before coming to the event. I actually thought it would be more focused on congregations engaging in mission. I did not realize that it was going to be completely focused on worship. I like the emphasis, but I am still trying to get my mind around the concept of worship being missional. Is it just using new packaging/language, or is it really something uniquely different? Keep working on me.” – *comment from a 2006 Missional Formation Seminar participant*

general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment



“[The] presentations helped us think about how we do worship, the meaning of worship... I personally benefitted a great deal from the active prayer experiences (these are also forming the basis for a focus on prayer in our congregation), group worship, and Sunday morning worship participation. I have taken back many ideas to my congregation that are affecting worship planning.”
 – comment from a 2006 Missional Formation Seminar participant

“I noticed how different congregations are from each other in terms of history, expectations and acceptance of worship forms and styles. The question of our church’s identity and why we do the things the way we do came clearer into focus during those three days.”
 – comment from a 2006 Missional Formation Seminar participant

- general**
- formation**
- witness
- support services**
- finance**
- discernment**



Daniel Pantoja (right), Mennonite Church Canada peaceworker in Philippines, converses with military leaders during a peace consultation.

- Mennonite Men/Join Hands – we were thrilled to receive a \$10,000 US grant from Join Hands for the church building project in Borabu, Thailand. This kind of collaboration strengthens our efforts.
- Mennonite Disaster Service – a Witness appointed person is representing us via MDS regarding Pandemic Preparedness Planning, including being on a sub-committee of the Canadian Council of Churches. Information for congregations on how we can faithfully be the church in the midst of a pandemic will soon be available.

Conclusion

Recently, leaders of the Colombia Mennonite Church thanked us for being in Colombia. Then President Peter Stucky said, “I want to thank the Canadian Church for receiving our people, opening your doors and hearts, and helping to make their lives bearable. There is an inextricable interwoven connection between Colombia and Canada.” This is just one voice of appreciation for the work that we together as a national church body are doing, from across the street to around the world. I pass these thanks on to you because it is you that have built this interwoven connection between our countries.

I trust that we will feel God’s presence with us as we consider together the magnificent opportunity and challenge of being the church in Canada today. We are a community of disciples of Jesus, part of the body of Christ. May we continue to gratefully respond to God’s initiatives, by calling, equipping and sending the church to engage the world with the reconciling gospel of Jesus Christ.

–Willard Metzger, chair,
 Christian Witness Council,
 and Janet Plenert, Executive
 Secretary, Witness



Gord Friesen of Mennonite Disaster Service confers with Janet Plenert.



Canadian Women in Mission (CWM)

A place to belong

In 1929, a group of 13 women in Yarrow, BC, formed the “Maria Martha Verein”, their name indicating their character: to meet for spiritual encouragement and to serve. * Other groups followed: Sardis 1931, Aldergrove 1934, Vancouver 1936, West Abbotsford, 1936, Mission City (Ferndale) 1938. These groups raised money for construction of their first church buildings, donated to “Pennies and a Prayer”, and sent relief parcels to starving families in the Ukraine. As a result of this work they developed community and enjoyed a rich fellowship.

July 4th, in Abbotsford at the CWM Annual Meeting, we want to celebrate this stewardship of gifts. We invite you to join us as we say good-bye to the formal relationship between CWM and BC Mennonite Women in Mission. In February 2007, women in BC decided to formally end BC MWM.

While the former relationship has ended for the moment, I am confident that new relationships will develop between women in BC and their sisters across Canada. This history of encouraging each other to serve God and the church, and in the process to enjoy fun, food and fellowship will not end at this point. The words of a hymn come to mind:

*In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*



The seven members of the Canadian Women in Mission group, from left to right: Erna Neufeldt, president; Evelyn Buhr, Alberta president; Ruth Jantzi, secretary treasurer; Betty Anne Hildebrand, Manitoba president; Audrey Mierau-Bechtel, Saskatchewan president; Veronica Thiessen, B.C. president; and Shirley Redekop, Ontario president.

Activities

- See Financial Report for information regarding monies dispersed by CWM.
- We were pleased to assist Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary students Rachel Siemens and Alissa Bender through the **Spiritual Growth Assistance Fund**.
- CMU students Jennifer Loewen, Tera Dyck, Angela Bergen, and Rita Braun completed practicums. We assisted financially through the **Service/Internship Program**. Laurel Koop will complete her assignment in July 2007.
- In addition to the suggested opportunities for giving we were able to donate \$4000 to assist in the development of a 4-6 session curriculum *Reaching Up: to God our Creator* by Native Ministries and Christian Education staff at Mennonite Church Canada, and \$4000 for travel costs for pastors attending the 2007 IMPACT event, to be hosted by MC Canada and MC Alberta.

Looking to the Future

“Better meetings, better food, and more fun” is how I recently heard women’s meetings described. If that is the case, how is it that our membership is dropping? If the average age of CWM is like that of the group I was a part of before moving to Ontario, then CWM as we know it is at risk of disappearing over time. Can we re-imagine the way we work together?

As an executive, we believe CWM is worthwhile, and we know that many of you feel the same. Our mission statement says we encourage women to nurture their life in Christ, study the Bible, utilize their gifts, listen to each other, and engage in mission and service. Let us celebrate our sisterhood, and at the same time watch for where God is leading us today and tomorrow.

–Erna Neufeldt, President CWM, July 2007

* Canadian Women in Mission 1895 – 1952 - 2002

Mennonite Central Committee Canada (MCCC)

At a Glance...

Activity/Program: MCCC provides a national voice for peace and justice issues and supports programs in Quebec, Atlantic Canada and overseas. It also provides support for MCC provincial and international programs that touch the lives of thousands of people each year. MCCC works in partnership with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and other faith-based relief and development agencies as well as the federal government's Canadian International Development Agency.

Ministry goals and objectives: MCCC seeks to demonstrate God's love through committed women and men who work, in the name of Christ, among people suffering from poverty, conflict, oppression and natural disaster. MCCC strives for peace, justice and dignity of all people by sharing resources, experiences and our faith in Jesus Christ. MCCC offers Canadians a tangible way to express their compassion for others.

Annual Budget: \$40 million. This includes income from supporting congregations, individual donations, thrift stores, Canadian Foodgrains Bank, the Canadian government, and others.

Reporting to: A delegate body with representatives from the eight supporting Mennonite and Brethren in Christ churches; representatives from the provincial MCCs and delegates at large. Mennonite Church Canada representatives are: Louise Buhler, Saskatoon; Erin Morash, Crystal City; Victoria Cordova, Kitchener; Pat Janzen, Winnipeg; Dora Koop, Westmount, QC; Chris Osahon Eigbike, Cloverdale, B.C.; Christopher Rollins, Vancouver; Ed Woelk, Tofield, AB.

general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment

In Ethiopia's capital city of Addis Ababa, Shewareged Ayalkbet, 39, is living with HIV. She was the first HIV-positive person to come forward in the Meserete Kristos Church and request support for herself and others like her. That was in 2000.

Shewareged learned of her HIV status five months after coming to Christ. "When the nurse counselor told me my test result, I was at peace with the result," Ayalkbet recalls. "She said to me, 'Are you crazy? I'm telling you that you are HIV-positive, and you are not upset.' I told her, 'I know. Whether negative or positive, Jesus is Lord. And Jesus knows why. Everything works out for good.'"

Shewareged says she encouraged other people living with HIV and AIDS to form a fellowship. These days, members of the fellowship do more than just support and encourage each other. They also provide education about HIV/AIDS to the wider church community.

When some members of the fellowship expressed a desire to sing songs as a form of ministry, the group organized a choir. All choir members are living with HIV or AIDS. Despite their situation, they have found time to celebrate God's love.

At MCC we sometimes forget to celebrate God's blessings. It's easy to do. Much of our work is with the poor and the powerless in the world and what we see and experience can be heartbreaking. But as Christians we need to take time to celebrate the community that is built through service and to express the joy that comes from being faithful to a calling.

Thank you for being part of that community and calling.

—Don Peters, Executive Director MCC Canada



A choir of people living with HIV performs in churches in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
Photo by Sarah Adams/MCC



Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT)

In the light of Canada's growing militarization, evidenced by billboards that now summon us to "Fight with the Canadian Armed Forces", where we used to "serve"; General Rick Hillier declaring, "We are the Canadian Forces and our job is to be able to kill people."; and Canada's military budget of \$14.7 billion set to increase by almost 90% over the next five years, the question: "What would happen if Christians devoted the same discipline and self-sacrifice to nonviolent peacemaking that armies devoted to war?" should continue to challenge us.

Over the last several years of CPT's eleven year presence in Palestine, our Team has been accompanying Palestinian shepherds while herding, and children while walking to school, supporting these daily acts of living resistance in the midst of violent Israeli settler attacks and soldier harassment. That support both nurtures and in turn is supported by the thousands of grassroots Israeli, Palestinian and international peace activist organizations and individuals' work rebuilding and replanting demolished Palestinian homes and olive groves. Does this not expose the lie of a conventional framework that locks Israelis and Palestinians into a zero sum battle for territorial supremacy?

In Colombia, our Team has continued to maintain a regular presence in Barrancabermeja and the township of Ciénaga del Opon, providing protective accompaniment to more than 90 families who returned to their homes in 2001, after being displaced by paramilitary and guerrilla violence. As these communities have increasingly partnered with local organizations to denounce violence and declare peace zones, CPT has been able to reduce its presence there; and, within the last year, mobilize to offer similar accompaniment to subsistence farmers, fishers and miners threatened by violence elsewhere in the central Magdalena valley. In a country where there has been near consensus by the state, paramilitary and guerrilla on the use of violence as a means to end conflict, isn't supporting grassroots initiatives to build a culture of peace a better way to ensure real security for the inhabitants?

In Kenora, Ontario; Bear Butte, South Dakota; and along the Arizona-Mexico border, our CPT teams provided a periodic or seasonal presence over the last year in working with indigenous peoples resisting continuing colonization in a so-called Post-Colonial world.

Despite the Asubpeeschoseewagong (Grassy Narrows First Nation) four year long blockade of main access route Highway 671, backed by a call for an end to industrial activity on their traditional lands, clear cutting continues. At Bear Butte, SD, over thirty local tribes are supporting an encampment resisting a massive new biker bar and continued development encroachment on their sacred territory. Along the Arizona-Mexico border, over 432 migrants died last year crossing the deadly-hot desert, as a result of an increasingly militarized border. Is not the support CPT offered to protect sacred sites and traditional ways of life, the stuff of grass roots peace and justice building in an age of empire?

In 2006, Christian Peacemaker Teams celebrated 20 years of violence reduction ministry in war and conflict zones in international projects and at home in Canada. While ecumenical, CPT is strongly rooted in the Mennonite church. Even as CPT has grown, with more denominations represented organizationally and individually, the Mennonite church has remained the single largest denomination represented. In Canada over half of the membership is Mennonite and donations run pretty consistently at about 50% from Mennonite sources.

As militarism and devotion to war making grows in Canada, will not our commitment, discipline, and self-sacrifice to nonviolent peacemaking awake anew and flourish?

—Rebecca Johnson

At a Glance...

Focus Statement: What would happen if Christians devoted the same discipline and self-sacrifice to nonviolent peacemaking that armies devote to war?

Activity/Program: Places teams of trained, disciplined Christian Peacemakers in situations of high conflict

Ministry goals and objectives: reduce violence in partnership with local peacemakers

Average Annual Budget: \$1,200,000; including \$240,000 raised in Canada.

Reporting to: Steering Committee appointed by sponsoring denominations, including MC Canada appointees Ruth Buhler and Janet Plenert.



general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment



Mennonite Disaster Service Region V Inc. (MDS)

At a Glance...



**Mennonite
Disaster
Service**

Activity: MDS is a channel through which Anabaptist churches can respond to those affected by disasters in Canada & the USA by cleaning up, repairing & reconstructing homes, offering crisis support.

Ministry Goals & Objectives: To connect volunteers and disaster survivors in the name of Christ – helping them regain faith and wholeness.

Annual Budget (2006): \$850,000 reached through direct donations to MDS from churches and individuals (\$150,000+ from Mennonite Church Canada members).

Reporting Relationships: Region V (Canada) board and bi-national board, representative of Amish, Mennonite, and Brethren in Christ conferences.

Staff: Evelyn Peters-Rojas, Lois Nickel, Lorraine Kehler Plett, Rebecca Peters

Officers: Ron Enns, chair; Leonard Klassen, vice chair; Kevin Thiessen, treasurer; Karen Martin, Secretary

general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment



Bi-national Response in 2006/2007:

- 1100+ Canadians volunteered in Florida, North Carolina, New York, and the Gulf Coast during 2006. *Approximately 450 of these were members of Mennonite Church Canada.*
- Over 600 homes were cleaned up, repaired or rebuilt (31 new homes).
- 12 project sites were open during Jan-Feb 2007, all in the Gulf Coast (LA, MS, TX, AL).
- Over 90 long term volunteers (4 weeks+) from Canada served during Jan-March 2007.

Region V (Canada) updates for 2007:

- Ron and Elaine Enns became the new Region V chairpersons, following a 6 year term by Gord Friesen.
- 4 youth groups will work with MDS in St. Jamestown, Toronto during July 2007 repairing churches and community centres, yards, and parks in partnership with Mennonite Brethren and Salvation Army ministries.
- MDS stood prepared in each province to respond to the extreme weather during 2006 but was not needed in most cases. Investigations did take place in BC, ON, MB and NFLD.

Volunteering = Blessings

Whether you are a board member, a donor, an MDS church representative, or someone who goes to project sites – you are a volunteer with MDS that helps make a difference to hundreds of disaster survivors each year. You help restore hope and faith.

This quote comes from a Rosenort, Manitoba couple serving in Diamond, LA: "...we heard how one client survived the evacuation and her story about what she found, or didn't find when she came back. But still, this is home and they want to be here and start over, and so we felt good that we were here helping... We found out that we had what it took, and together, as short- and long-term volunteers, we helped to make a difference, and we were blessed by the appreciation of our clients as they worked with us, but more than that, God was here and provided what we needed..."

Prayer Requests

Please pray for more volunteers with project leadership and construction skills to come forward to allow more MDS projects to open and remain open especially throughout late spring, summer, and early fall.

–Lois Nickel



John Braun stands at a table saw provided by funding from his sending church, Grace Mennonite in Neuanlage, Saskatchewan. Photo by Bruce Hildebrand

Mennonite Men (MM)

Mennonite Men is a jointly owned partnership of Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church USA. The Mennonite Men board consists of Canadian and U.S. members in proportion to membership and is representative of the constituency. Mennonite Men provides resources for men's groups in local congregations, encourages formation of men's groups and develops men's study resources. One priority is the Join Hands Mennonite Church Building Program, which provides church building grants to young congregations.

Mennonite Men, with annual receipts of \$132,000 (11 percent from MC Canada), relates to Mennonite Church Canada Witness, and in Mennonite Church USA, to a constituency group relating to the Constituency Leaders Council.

In our relationship with men's ministry leaders in main line denominations we have attempted to identify men's needs and develop tools to speak to those needs. Research done by Lutheran Men in Mission and reported in *Coming of Age: Exploring the Identify and Spirituality of Younger Men* reveals that while only 43 percent say they go to church once a month, almost all young men consider themselves persons of faith. Seventy-nine percent see themselves as believers in God, but most don't see the church as the best place to pursue their faith. Research also suggests that of all ages attending church about 39 percent are male and 61 percent female.

A new resource, which should be available at Abbotsford, is *Wrestling with God: Devotions for Men*. It consists of 52 devotions written by Mennonite men for men who are seeking greater spiritual depth in their lives. The book is designed for individual devotional reading as well as for adaptation to group settings. See ministrytomen.com for other resources for men.

In response to the \$50,000 grant, Pastor Erv Wiens of Trinity Mennonite Church wrote, "We accept this building as a gift from God and from God's people who supported and assisted us in this venture. Special thanks to Join Hands for the generous grant. May God continue to bless and extend your ministries."

The real challenge for Mennonite Men is to provide grants to young Mennonite congregations needing help in acquiring their first church building. Grants have been committed through 2010 for nine congregations totaling \$279,000. Seven additional grant applications are being processed.

—Marvin Baergen, Canadian Coordinator



Trinity Mennonite Church, Calgary Alberta

At a Glance...



Canadian Mennonite Men Board Members:

Marvin Baergen, Calgary
Dave Bergen, Winnipeg
Samson Lo, Vancouver.

The *JoinHands Mennonite Church Building Program* is the major mission program of Mennonite Men. Grants were given in 2006 to three young Mennonite churches acquiring their first church buildings. Churches receiving grants were: Trinity Mennonite, Calgary, Alta, \$50,000; Living Water, Borabur, Thailand, \$10,000; and Unity Pentecostal, Miami, Fla, \$50,000.

general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment



Support Services

At a Glance...

Support Services Council Members 2006-07:

Brice Balmer, Kitchener ON
Bill Janzen, Calgary AB
Rita Strickland, St. Catharines ON
Harry Wiens, Altona MB
Mark Wurtz, Rosthern SK

Support Services Council appoints representatives to:

Canadian Mennonite Publishing Service

Brice Balmer, Kitchener ON
Aiden Enns, Winnipeg MB
John Goossen, Vancouver BC
Paul Krahn, Altona MB

Mennonite Foundation of Canada

Rudy Friesen, Winnipeg MB
Nick Heide, Winkler MB
Tony Huynh, Winnipeg MB
Clayton Loewen, Fort Langley BC
Karen Martens Zimmerly, Regina SK
Anita Tiessen, Mississauga ON

general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment

Highlights of the past year in Support Services' seven primary areas of ministry:

- **Communications:** Get the latest MC Canada news at www.mennonitechurch.ca. News stories are refreshed biweekly. Or, read the *Canadian Mennonite*! In 2006, *Canadian Mennonite* published over 150 articles about MC Canada.
- **Resource Development:** Thank you for your generous support! More than 1300 individuals and congregations made a gift to MC Canada last year, including 601 new donors.
- **Assembly planning:** Since early 2006, volunteers and staff from Support Services and Formation Council have been working hard to bring you a joint youth and delegate assembly at Abbotsford 2007. We hope folks of all ages from across the country will enjoy meeting each other at our common morning worship services, seminar times, display area, and the barbecue and fellowship evening at Trinity Western University on Thursday, July 5.
- **Information technology:** More than 80% of Canadian registrants used the online registration system provided by MC USA for the Charlotte 2005 joint assembly. We have now developed our own online registration system for Abbotsford 2007 and future assemblies.
- **Pension Plan:** A Group RRSP option was added to the MC Canada Pension Plan in September, 2006. More than 90 pension plan members attended Group RRSP information sessions in fall 2006. The Group RRSP offers flexibility, low management fees, and spousal accounts. It is open to all employees of MC Canada congregations and their spouses. To learn more, call Kirsten Schroeder at 1-866-888-6785, ext. 110.
- **Human Resources:** A review of the group life and long term disability insurance program provided by MC Canada to our member congregations resulted in improved benefits at lower cost. Life insurance benefits increased from \$60,000 to \$70,000 while total premiums for life and long term disability insurance dropped by more than 14%.
- **Property Management:** On November 24, 2006, title to the property at 600 Shaftesbury Boulevard, Winnipeg was officially transferred from MC Canada to CMU. This completed a process begun at Winkler 2004 when delegates approved a resolution recognizing that this property had been developed for the purpose of providing a Christian



Brice Balmer, outgoing member of the Support Services Council, served since the Council's inception at Abbotsford 2001. Brice was also one of MC Canada's appointed representatives on the board of the Canadian Mennonite Publishing Service. Thanks for your outstanding contribution, Brice.



education experience for the youth of MC Canada, and authorizing the General Board to assign the property to best fulfill this mandate.

Does the church really matter?

Church Matters, a new radio program focused on the life and significance of the church, hit the airwaves and the internet in February 2007. While there are many worship-style radio programs that focus on personal faith, *Church Matters* aims to fill a different niche. The program uses an issues and interview format to highlight the responsibility, potential, and impact of God's gathered community of people – the church. Past and future topics include the militarization of Canada, the state of the international Mennonite church, socially responsible investing, and creation care.

You can listen to *Church Matters* any time on the internet (www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/158) or (in Manitoba) at 8:45 am on the third Sunday of each month on CFAM 950 (Altona), AM 1250 (Steinbach) and CJRB 1220 (Boissevain). MC Canada is producing *Church Matters* on a one year trial basis. Continuation or expansion will depend on listener feedback and funding. Let us know what you think!

Putting Your Money Where Your Faith Is

This one day seminar on socially responsible investing (SRI) will take place on July 3, 2007. Taking the place of the annual Ministers' Conference, this event will provide pastors and others with an opportunity to work at theological and practical issues of applying faith to financial stewardship decisions.

Putting your money where your faith is is something that the MC Canada Pension Advisory Committee spends a lot of time doing. The July 3 event was spawned by a conversation at one of its meetings. The Pension Advisory Committee manages MC Canada's \$34 million pension plan, including setting investment policy, monitoring investment performance, and providing educational opportunities for the plan's 800+ members.

At its March 2007 meeting, the Pension Advisory Committee approved changes to the plan's Statement of Investment Policy (see sidebar) to make its SRI criteria more clear. As the SRI industry becomes more diverse and sophisticated, it is important to ensure that the pension plan's investment managers are receiving clear instructions about what our plan members are and are not prepared to support with their pension funds. The investment policy printed here applies to the pension plan's "core option". Members' contributions are invested in the core option if they do not select one or more of the 23 other investment options in the plan. As of December 31, 2006 almost 84% of the plan's \$34 million were invested in the core option.

MC Canada Pension Plan – Excerpt from new Statement of Investment Policy approved March 2007

We will attempt to avoid investing in all companies which are involved in the production of items specific to:

- Weapons or military contracting
- Tobacco or tobacco related products
- Alcohol and alcohol related products
- Nuclear production
- Pornography
- Gaming

We will also attempt to avoid investing in companies that benefit indirectly from these industries. Therefore, we will not invest in companies that earn more than 10% of their income from the distribution of specific items or production of generic items in the following areas¹:

- Weapons or military contracting
- Tobacco or tobacco related products
- Alcohol or alcohol related products
- Nuclear production
- Pornography
- Gaming

We prefer a fund manager who has an active shareholder and proxy voting policy and that aligns with the above policies.

We prefer a fund manager who actively supports Community Development Investments.

Of the companies which meet the previous screens, we will attempt to invest in companies which incorporate best industry practices in the following areas:

- Human rights (local and international)
- Gender and cultural equality
- Corporate governance
- Environmental policies and records
- Stakeholder engagement

¹ This section intends to limit our investment in companies that don't produce items specific to the industries listed but may still benefit from those industries. For example, the 10% limit on distribution of specific items prohibits the core option from investing in a trucking company that earns more than 10% of its revenue from distributing items specific to the six industries listed. The 10% limit on production of generic items prohibits the core option from investing in a company that produces sheet metal, which can be used for many purposes, if more than 10% of that company's product is sold to the six industries listed.

general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment



Support Services Staff:

Pam Peters-Pries, Executive Secretary; **Kirsten Schroeder**, Director of Human Resources; **Karen Peters**, Executive Assistant; **Miriam Tshimanga**, Receptionist, Administrative Assistant; **Al Rempel**, Director of Resource Development; **Gerd Bartel**, Western Director of Resource Development; **Dave Klassen**, Eastern Director of Resource Development; **Dan Dyck**, Director of Communications; **Grant Klassen**, Webmaster; **Lynette Wiebe**, Communications Coordinator (on leave); **Katharina Nuss**, Graphic Designer/Communications Coordinator.

Joint Assembly with MC USA

What do the folks of MC Canada and Mennonite Church USA have in common? We share *Vision: Healing and Hope* and the *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective*. We share Mennonite Publishing Network and Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary. We share a desire to continue meeting with each other in some way, although we have acknowledged together that joint delegate assemblies are no longer necessary.

In response to this desire for continued fellowship with each other, MC Canada is inviting members of MC USA to join MC Canada in July 2008 in Winnipeg to worship and study together. As citizens of wealthy, powerful and increasingly secularized nations, we will focus on what it means for Christians and the Christian community to live as counter-cultural witnesses. This broad theme will touch on many issues, such as creation care, economic sharing, and conflict resolution.

At the time of writing, the tentative plans are for the MC Canada delegate assembly to take place July 7-8, 2008. The joint assembly will begin the evening of Tuesday, July 8 and conclude on Thursday, July 10. We look forward to this gathering of God's people and to the bold witness that we hope it will be and inspire.

*—Pam Peters-Pries, Executive Secretary, Support Services
Ed Janzen, Chair, Support Services Council*

**general
formation
witness
support services
finance
discernment**



Rita Strickland, Support Services Council member, juggled the needs of her infant daughter Sophia with the discussion and discernment agenda at hand during the 2007 Leadership Assembly in Winnipeg.





Mennonite Foundation of Canada (MFC)

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

Mennonite Foundation of Canada's work as an educational arm and charitable foundation for our constituency continued to grow last year. Here are some highlights from projects and services that MFC was involved with in 2006, promoting generous living as a faithful response to God's grace.

Resource to help people minimize or control debt. Increasingly, personal debt and a lack of money management skills are problems in our congregations. Pastors and caregivers often feel ill-equipped to help. This past year, MFC developed a new resource, *First Things First*, to help people who want to gain control of their finances, and to help train people in the church interested in mentoring them. This newly published resource is now available.

Church Leaders' Financial Seminars. MFC is working with congregational leaders to help them cope with the ever-evolving laws that govern charities. In 2006, MFC hosted a Church Leaders' seminar in Red Deer, Alberta. That session helped treasurers and board members keep up-to-date with Canada Revenue Agency regulations and technology for best accounting practices. We will continue to host these seminars across Canada.

More funds to charities through gifts of stocks and mutual funds. Many donors have taken advantage of the change in tax law introduced in the 2006 federal budget. This change eliminated capital gains tax on mutual funds and publicly traded shares when they are donated **in-kind** to charity, making it easier for people who own these investments to donate more to charity. In 2006, MFC processed nearly \$5 million of in-kind donations of mutual funds and publicly traded shares.

Professional Development. MFC staff continues to upgrade their qualifications to better meet needs of individuals and congregations. Several consultants achieved the Elder Planning Counsellor (EPC) designation specializing in issues facing people 55+. Several consultants are in various stages of completing course work required to attain the Certified Financial Planner (CFP) designation.

Updated Web Site. Work is underway to expand the information and services available on our website. Stay tuned.

New Staff. MFC hired two new consultants and a new head office receptionist last year. Kevin Lim was hired to work with British Columbia clients from our Abbotsford office, replacing the retiring Dave Kroeker. Sherri Grosz began working out of the Kitchener, Ontario office in August, becoming the third consultant in Eastern Canada. Seven consultants now serve in five offices across Canada. Carol Reimer began work as a head office receptionist in October. MFC has 13 staff in total.

Distributions to Charities. In 2006, MFC was privileged to disburse over \$5 million to many church and community related causes on behalf of numerous donors. Of the \$88 million MFC manages, \$28 million is currently reinvested in church and related institution mortgages across Canada.

—Erwin Warkentin, General Manager, MFC

At a Glance...

Officers: Erwin Warkentin, General Manager; Rick Braun-Janzen, Assistant Manager; Anita Tiessen, Board Chair; Ron Warder, Vice Chair; Richard Steinmann, Secretary; Clayton Loewen, Treasurer

Stewardship Consultants: Jim Brown, Sherri Grosz, Dave Kroeker, Darren Pries-Klassen, Gary Sawatzky, Mike Strathdee.

MC Canada Reps: Rudy Friesen, Nick Heide, Clayton Loewen, Anita Thiessen, Karen Martens Zimmerly, Tony Huynh.

Representing: Mennonite Church Canada, Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, Chortitzer Mennonite Conference, Evangelical Mennonite Conference, Evangelical Mennonite Mission Conference, Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada, and Northwest Mennonite Conference.

general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment



At a Glance...

Focus Statement: *Canadian Mennonite* is the part of our church that ministers simultaneously to more than 30,000 of us twice a month. It lets us share our joys and sorrows, speak in love and truth to each other, and call one another to obedience and service in the Kingdom of God.

Activity/Program: Publishing a national magazine for those attending MC Canada churches

2006 Expenses: \$639,000 (2006 net income was \$166,000 from MC Canada, \$145,000 from the five area churches and \$361,000 from the magazine itself)

Mission Statement: *Canadian Mennonite* is a bi-weekly Anabaptist/Mennonite periodical which seeks to promote covenantal relationships within the church (guided by Hebrews 10:23-25, which calls on us to be concerned for one another, encourage each other and help one another do good). It provides channels for sharing accurate and fair information, faith profiles, inspirational/educational materials, news and analysis of issues facing the church.

Reporting to: Canadian Mennonite Publishing Service Board, a twelve-member board that includes four Mennonite Church Canada-appointed board members (these were Brice Balmer, Aiden Enns, John W. Goossen and Paul Krahn as of December 2006). The board chair is Bernie Wiebe.

general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment



Dear MC Canada Delegates: At one of our congregations, a pastor told me that his congregation valued its connection to the larger Mennonite church but that a sense of isolation and the opportunities and commitments of local ministry made those links hard to strengthen. But *Canadian Mennonite* was something that was able to bridge those gaps. "The Every Home Plan is working," he told me. "**People get the issues and read them.**"

Canadian Mennonite is a ministry delivered directly into the hands of more than 30,000 attending our churches. The magazine provides news, engaging and challenging opinion pieces, and a place for Mennonites from all parts of the church to share their vision of church life together. The quality of the magazine was recognized again by the Canadian Church Press in 2006 when we won six awards for our work, our best showing since at least 1997.

As Mennonites, one of our distinctives is the spiritual importance we place on community and discipleship. We make a promise before God upon baptism to give and receive counsel from each other. *Canadian Mennonite* is one way we **live out our spiritual values** with each other, testifying to the work of God in our lives and our world.

Canadian Mennonite is the primary way for MC Canada Mennonites to communicate with each other. Through it, you've **shared your stories of how to be faithful Mennonite witnesses and servants of Christ** in 21st century Canada. You've used the magazine to learn about the many ministries of our churches, the denomination's national and international ministries, camps, schools, and other Mennonite organizations in Canada and elsewhere. You've used its pages to stay informed and to share your views on important issues of the day. You've given financially to help us continue to provide church subscriptions at **about half of actual cost** in order to reach as many as possible. You've continued to support *Canadian Mennonite* as the one publication Mennonite church households have in common. **Thank you so much** for the many ways you have enriched Mennonites across the country through *Canadian Mennonite!*

For 2007, we are working on features on the church's response to climate change; faith and finances; growing leaders through Mennonite education; female spirituality; "high church" Mennonites; further reflections from Jack Suderman's church visits; faith and the global economy; food and agriculture (following up on the 2002 "Peace with the Land" conference); peacemaking (from domestic violence to elder abuse to Afghanistan); the role of sport and church teams in church life; and how we connect our faith with our health and our body image.

Thank you to all of you for your support through the national church and the five area churches. These six publishing partners work together to govern the magazine and buy subscriptions for all those in our churches. We very much value your support and commitment to help provide this publishing ministry of and for the church.

Grace and peace,
Tim Miller Dyck, Editor and Publisher



Tim Miller Dyck

Financial Policy & Audit Committee (FPAC)

Management Report

At the back of this report book you will find the audited financial statements for the period dated February 1, 2006 to January 31, 2007. Looking at these statements, you might ask yourself, what does all of this mean? To summarize it in one sentence, we can say that MC Canada has completed another good year. Management was able to work with the budget approved last year in Edmonton, carrying out the proposed projects with the money entrusted to us.

If you follow the year to year Operating Statement more closely, you will likely have noticed that over the past few years, we have made changes to how we report on projects. Last year we made a distinction between “Expenses for Partner Programs” and “Contributions to Related Organizations”. This year we have made some additional adjustments. For financial reporting purposes, we have moved “Der Bote”, “MHC Archives” and “MHC Gallery” out of the Formation Council and into Partner Programs. The significance of this move is that Partner Programs are projects that we consider to sustain themselves without receiving any general donation income, though under certain circumstances, a particular project within Partner Programs may receive a subsidy from a Council or Board. Otherwise, these partner programs and related organizations are limited to the funding that they receive.

Consequently, for financial reporting purposes, MC Canada is now made up of three components:

1. Core program including Witness, Formation, Support Services Council and General Board
2. Partner Programs
3. Contributions to Related Organizations.

When analyzing each of these components separately, we know that donations for our core program totaled approximately \$3,600,000. This is short of target by \$38,000 and by \$63,000 compared to 2006. Donations for Partner Programs totaled \$392,000 in 2007 compared to \$421,000 in 2006, and Related Organizations donations totaled \$414,000 in 2007 compared to \$375,000 in 2006. The fluctuations in these last two categories are not as significant, due to the fact that projects are often short-term, beginning and ending any time during the year, and the following year will see new projects arise that are not necessarily comparable.

Donations were slightly below budget; however, due to an offsetting under-expenditure, we were able to end the year with a surplus that was used to further replenish our reserves. We were thus able to post a \$184,000 General Fund operating surplus that was allocated to the different internally restricted funds. A summarized General Fund statement of operations is provided in this report book.

Continuing with our balance sheet, the good news is that the loans receivable from related partners (CMU and MPN) have been paid in full. This allowed MC Canada to repay both loans to Crosstown Credit Union. At this moment, MC Canada is free from any bank debt. Contingent liabilities guaranteed by MC Canada have decreased from \$80,000 US in 2006 to \$58,000 US in 2007. MC Canada did however assume the guarantee of a loan to Mennonite Publishing Network, totaling \$250,000.

Another highlight on our balance sheet is the fact that MC Canada has transferred ownership of the property at 600 Shaftesbury Blvd. to CMU. As part of the transfer, MC Canada retained the beneficial ownership of the conference administration building and the Heritage Centre by way of a 99 year capital lease agreement. MC Canada does not pay rent on this lease but is responsible for all utility and maintenance costs associated with these properties.



Randy Wiebe

FPAC members:

Clare Schlegel, Ingrid Peters-Fransen, Helen Kasdorf.

Staff:

Randy Wiebe, Director of Finance; **Lorna Friesen**, Assistant Director of Finance; **Nyomen Klassen**, Accounts Payable Clerk; **Laura Zacharias**, Coordinator-Payroll and Benefits Accounting; **Dianne Schmidt**, Accounting Administrative Assistant.

general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment



Looking toward the future, donation revenue projections were prudently decreased in light of the downward trend, and in keeping with financial policy. With a transfer from General Reserve of \$69,000, we are once again presenting to you, the delegates, a balanced budget for the year ending January 31, 2008. The 2008 budget is presented in this report book. With the intention to continue the work that was started in the past few years, the budget was prepared with no increases to budgeted expenditures. Significant work will be going into the 2009 budget to adjust expenditures to the current revenue realities and priorities.

In the past we did not prepare budget figures for most of the Partner Programs and Related Organizations. Now we have included targets for each project supported or administered by MC Canada.

Two versions of the budget are once again presented. The “net program budget” has deducted deferred contributions and other income from councils’ expenditures, so that you can see what expenditures are paid for from donation revenue.

I am happy to report that we have ongoing stability within the Finance Department and throughout MC Canada. MC Canada management and staff are working diligently to do the work that God calls us to do, and which you are so generously supporting. I would like to end by saying a sincere thank you to all who make this rewarding work possible.

–Randy Wiebe, Director of Finance

Treasurer’s Report



Clare Schlegel

- general**
- formation**
- witness**
- support services**
- finance**
- discernment**

The work of the Kingdom here at Mennonite Church Canada continues and it is gratifying to be a very small part of it. With my term ending in July, it causes one to reflect.

I want to bring words of assurance to the constituency of Mennonite Church Canada that the organization is on solid financial ground again. While the reserves are still short of our target (3 months of operating funds), control, oversight, and review functions are all operating at a high level. Management and board receive current financial information monthly for decision-making. FPAC (Financial, Policy and Audit Committee) were extremely pleased with the very positive report from our auditors (KPMG). The audit went smoothly, with no concerns from management resulting in a clean audit report. Well done to our finance team, led by Randy Wiebe. Well done to general management and the rest of our staff team.

I want to bring words of encouragement to all. Our staff teams are solid, and again focused on ministry and the future, instead of constantly having to worry about tomorrow.

I also want to bring words of gratitude. While mergers and difficulties bring instability, lack of confidence and questioning, you, our constituency, have stood behind and supported Mennonite Church Canada and its ministries. This is the third consecutive year of solid financial results. We now have a positive track record. Mennonite Church Canada looks to the future with optimism as it works to fulfill its mission. Thank you.

I also bring words of encouragement to continue to generously support the work of Mennonite Church Canada. Ministry happens at all levels, individually, congregationally, in the area church, and at the national church. General revenues for Mennonite Church Canada again this year were slightly smaller. With prudent management of expenses, MC Canada finished with a slight operating margin, but if this revenue trend continues, it will require additional difficult program decisions. So, I encourage all (congregations, individuals, and those planning estate dispersals) to remember the ministries of MC Canada.

Wishing all God’s blessings as we minister together.

–Clare Schlegel, Treasurer



Financial Operating Statement Summary

Mennonite Church Canada—General Fund Statement of Operations

February 1, 2007 to January 31, 2008

	<i>Gross-Actual 2007</i>	<i>Net-Actual 2007</i>	<i>Net-Budget 2007</i>	<i>Variance</i>	<i>Net-Budget 2008</i>
INCOME					
Donations	3,634,724	3,634,723	3,673,290	(38,567)	3,610,800
General Bequest	45,000	45,000	0	45,000	0
Recognized Deferred Contributions	49,488	0	0	-	0
Other Income	849,364	0	0	-	0
Partner Programs	770,615	392,120	206,298	-	546,300
Related Organizations	414,459	414,459	85,000	-	297,000
Total Revenue	5,763,650	4,486,302	3,964,588	6,433	4,454,100
EXPENSES					
Witness Council	2,282,450	1,693,197	1,875,625	182,428	1,852,168
Formation Council	369,650	346,359	383,779	37,420	376,279
Support Services Council	903,710	725,545	716,658	(8,887)	713,043
General Board	504,169	396,026	421,585	25,559	395,374
CMU	325,603	325,603	335,580	9,977	335,580
Partner Programs	770,440	391,944	253,325	-	607,600
Related Organizations	414,459	414,459	85,000	-	297,000
Total Expenses	5,570,481	4,293,133	4,071,552	246,497	4,577,044
Operating Surplus(Deficit) before other items	193,169	193,169	(106,964)	300,133	(122,944)
Other items	(9,096)	(9,096)	0	(9,096)	0
Operating Surplus(Deficit)	184,073	184,073	(106,964)	291,037	(122,944)
Inter Fund transfers	(184,073)	(184,073)	106,964	(291,037)	122,944
	0	0	0	0	0

general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment

Note:

1. This schedule has not been audited.
2. The columns titled "Net" have deferred contributions and other income deducted from councils' expenditures.
3. Partner Programs and Related Organizations are not included in the variance calculation.



Discernment Guide

The work of the church is best described as discussion and discernment, rather than as debate and decision. We want to provide the best possible atmosphere for discussion and discernment in these delegate sessions.

We have much work to do in a short period of time, while at the same time conducting ourselves in a manner that allows for maximum discussion. We need to use procedures that are fair and open, but not complex and cumbersome. The size of our delegate body makes it difficult to make decisions through a process of simple consensus. A brief introduction to some basic rules may help us. As usual, we will have a parliamentarian to assist us in our work.

About Motions

During a delegate session, you may wish to introduce a motion, raise a question, or extend discussion. Please follow these basic principles:

- A motion or resolution of new or substantive business must first be taken to the Resolutions Committee by the mover and seconder. The purpose of this committee is to help us complete our business on time by reviewing new motions for clarity and appropriateness before they are brought to the Assembly.
- The Resolutions Committee has the prerogative to combine resolutions with others or modify them for presentation, to refer a resolution to the General Board or other body as an alternative to delegate action, or to rule a motion out of order. If the delegates disagree with a decision of the Resolutions Committee they can bring a motion to the floor. In that case, the moderator will call for a vote on whether to debate the motion. This vote will require support of a simple majority of the delegates.
- To amend a motion, limit or extend debate on a motion or lay a motion on the table, you will need to make a motion to that effect while the main motion is still under consideration. To do that, seek recognition from the moderator and then make the motion.
- To object to consideration of a motion, call for a more precise vote, ask a question of parliamentary procedure, or offer information on a question, seek recognition of the moderator and make your comment or motion. This includes a call for a recess, or adjournment.

- In order to facilitate a good process, amendments to resolutions that appear on the agenda should be presented in advance in writing to the Resolutions Committee before they can be offered to delegates.
- Any delegate may speak to points of order and other motions of parliamentary procedure, such as a motion on the table.
- Only registered delegates can make or move motions as well as vote.
- Most motions require a second — that someone else also indicates a desire to consider the motion. When the moderator asks for a second to a motion, please raise your hand and seek acknowledgement.
- The MC Canada General Board Executive Committee may offer an amendment or a new resolution without processing it through the Resolutions Committee (for the purpose of efficient process).
- If you think that it is time to end discussion you can “call for the question.” However, if there is any objection to ending discussion, then the delegate body will need to take a vote on your proposal to end discussion.

Basic Guidelines

- Our overarching interest in a delegate assembly is to make sure that we hear from as many persons as possible.
- If you wish to speak, please approach a microphone and be recognized by the moderator.
- We ask delegates to treat each other with respect in Christian love.
- Make sure you identify yourself and your area church or congregation before making your remarks.
- Please direct your remarks to the moderator and speak for yourself only, unless specifically commissioned to speak for a group. If so, name the group. We urge delegates to listen carefully to the flow of the meeting.
- Allow everyone who wants to speak an opportunity to do so before speaking a second time to the same motion.
- Speaking not more than twice to any motion in one day will help to ensure speaking opportunities for more delegates.
- Make it clear whether you support a motion on the floor or have a different view.
- Keep your remarks brief to allow others to speak after you.

Additional Items

Many of the proposals being brought for delegate action have been developed through an extensive process of feedback from congregations, area churches, as well as committees and boards.

- We encourage vigorous debate on proposals.
- We ask you not to show your approval or disapproval (for instance by clapping) of any speaker on the floor.

general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment



		FYE Jan-08 GROSS Annual Budget	FYE Jan-08 NET Annual Budget	FYE Jan-07 NET Actual	FYE Jan-07 NET Annual Budget
1	INCOME				
2	Individual & Corporate Donations	807,300	807,300	785,225	830,290
3	Church Donations	2,803,500	2,803,500	2,849,499	2,843,000
4	General Bequest	0	0	45,000	0
5	Recognized Deferred Contributions	60,284	0	0	0
6	Other Income	632,115	0	0	0
7	Partner Programs	695,575	546,300	392,120	206,298
8	Related Organizations	297,000	297,000	414,459	85,000
9	TOTAL INCOME	5,295,774	4,454,100	4,486,303	3,964,588
10	EXPENSES				
11	Christian Witness Council				
12	Executive Office	139,868	114,057	82,110	90,636
13	Congregational Partnerships	182,066	182,066	141,896	188,253
14	National Ministries Admin.	8,339	8,339	9,311	8,677
15	Multi-Cultural Ministry	38,356	38,356	38,442	39,558
16	Native Ministries	114,684	104,441	89,692	89,748
17	International Ministries	1,848,855	1,404,909	1,331,746	1,458,753
18	Total Witness Council Expenses	2,332,168	1,852,168	1,693,197	1,875,625
19	Christian Formation Council				
20	Executive Office	151,477	148,321	136,849	154,249
21	Resource Centre	78,974	68,474	56,253	69,400
22	Min. & Cong. Leadership	87,218	82,718	73,480	84,100
23	Youth Ministry	27,393	27,393	27,629	27,500
24	Youth Assembly	0	0	4,756	0
25	Education & Nurture Ministries	49,373	49,373	47,392	48,530
26	Total Formation Council Expenses	394,435	376,279	346,359	383,779
27	Support Services Council				
28	Administration	355,037	265,780	282,020	282,880
29	Annual Assembly	69,586	(5,000)	10,677	(5,000)
30	Communications	157,907	157,307	146,384	151,585
31	Development	120,795	120,795	114,276	116,193
32	Canadian Mennonite	174,161	174,161	172,189	171,000
33	Total Support Services Council Expenses	877,486	713,043	725,546	716,658
34	General Board				
35	GBD Administration	172,354	164,354	199,932	200,600
36	Finance	214,820	193,020	158,094	182,985
38	CMU Grants	335,580	335,580	325,603	335,580
39	Mennonite World Conference Grants	38,000	38,000	38,000	38,000
40	Total General Board Expenses	760,754	730,954	721,629	757,165
41	Partner Programs				
42	Misc. New Initiatives	50,000	50,000	31,168	58,500
43	Int'l Worker Special Projects	0	0	583	0
44	Christian Peacemaker Teams	200,000	200,000	173,705	0
45	Company of 1000	50,000	13,400	13,571	0
46	NAMVF	25,000	25,000	0	0
47	Phillipine Partnership	80,000	80,000	52,539	26,500
48	MVSA	2,000	2,000	735	0
49	Kherson Partnership	5,000	5,000	5,251	0
50	Learning Tours	20,000	20,000	(29,610)	0
51	Canadian Women in Mission	30,000	30,000	0	0
52	Der Bote	152,300	87,300	84,272	81,825
53	MHC Archives	77,575	51,000	41,273	46,500
54	MHC Gallery	65,000	43,900	18,457	40,000
55	Total Partner Programs Expenses	756,875	607,600	391,944	253,325
56	Related Organizations				
57	Mennonite Mission Network	35,000	35,000	39,774	0
58	Mennonite Church USA	21,000	21,000	40,172	0
59	AMBS	85,000	85,000	80,999	85,000
60	Canadian Mennonite University	0	0	2,109	0
61	Mennonite Publishing Network	25,000	25,000	32,640	0
62	Messertitos Kristos College	100,000	100,000	197,765	0
63	Eastern Mennonite Missions	0	0	21,000	0
64	Mennonite World Conference	31,000	31,000	0	0
65	Total Related Organization Expenses	297,000	297,000	414,459	85,000
66	TOTAL EXPENSES	5,418,718	4,577,044	4,293,134	4,071,552
67	Operating Surplus/(Deficit) before extraordinary items	(122,944)	(122,944)	193,169	(106,964)
68	Other items	0	0	(9,096)	0
69	Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(122,944)	(122,944)	184,073	(106,964)
70	Transfer To Reserves	(61,880)	(61,880)	(270,574)	(54,312)
71	Transfer from Reserves	206,685	206,685	144,890	211,524
72	Transfer To Capital Reserves	(21,861)	(21,861)	(67,485)	(50,248)
73	Transfer from Reserves for extraordinary items	0	0	9,096	0
74	Net Transfers (to)/from Reserves	122,944	122,944	(184,073)	106,964
75	ENDING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	0	0	0	0
76	Note:				
77	1. This schedule has not been audited.				
78	2. The columns titled "Net" have deferred contributions and other income deducted from councils' expenditures.				

Budget

2007-08 GROSS & NET
Program Budget with
Comparatives

For the Twelve Months
Ending January 31, 2008

general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment



Budget

2007-08 GROSS Program
Budget with Comparatives

For the Twelve Months
Ending January 31, 2008

		FYE Jan-08 GROSS Annual Budget	FYE Jan-07 GROSS Actual	FYE Jan-07 GROSS Annual Budget
1	INCOME			
2	Individual & Corporate Donations	807,300	785,225	830,290
3	Church Donations	2,803,500	2,849,499	2,843,000
4	General Bequest	0	45,000	0
5	Recognized Deferred Contributions	60,284	49,488	47,271
6	Other Income	632,115	849,364	838,219
7	Partner Programs	695,575	770,615	373,778
8	Related Organizations	297,000	414,459	85,000
9	TOTAL INCOME	5,295,774	5,763,650	5,017,558
10	EXPENSES			
11	Christian Witness Council			
12	Executive Office	139,868	125,716	128,852
13	Congregational Partnerships	182,066	148,766	194,253
14	National Ministries Admin.	8,339	9,311	8,677
15	Multi-Cultural Ministry	38,356	38,442	39,883
16	Native Ministries	114,684	110,882	113,932
17	International Ministries	1,848,855	1,849,333	1,966,980
18	Total Witness Council Expenses	2,332,168	2,282,450	2,452,577
19	Christian Formation Council			
20	Executive Office	151,477	139,148	157,220
21	Resource Centre	78,974	74,069	80,400
22	Min. & Cong. Leadership	87,218	76,656	87,100
23	Youth Ministry	27,393	27,629	27,500
24	Youth Assembly	0	4,756	0
25	Education & Nurture Ministries	49,373	47,392	48,530
26	Total Formation Council Expenses	394,435	369,650	400,750
27	Support Services Council			
28	Administration	355,037	381,700	372,472
29	Annual Assembly	69,586	88,433	95,020
30	Communications	157,907	146,712	162,585
31	Development	120,795	114,676	116,193
32	Canadian Mennonite	174,161	172,189	171,000
33	Total Support Services Council Expenses	877,486	903,710	907,270
34	General Board			
35	GBD Administration	172,354	213,785	208,600
36	Finance	214,820	252,384	275,435
37	CMU Grants	335,580	325,603	335,580
38	Mennonite World Conference Grants	38,000	38,000	38,000
39	Total General Board Expenses	760,754	829,772	857,615
40	Partner Programs			
41	Misc. New Initiatives	50,000	41,589	58,500
42	Int'l Worker Special Projects	0	833	0
43	Christian Peacemaker Teams	200,000	236,694	0
44	Company of 1000	50,000	49,264	0
45	NAVVF	25,000	31,524	0
46	Phillipine Partnership	80,000	46,088	66,500
47	MVSA	2,000	2,338	0
48	Kherson Partnership	5,000	8,400	0
49	Learning Tours	20,000	40,740	0
50	Canadian Women in Mission	30,000	0	0
51	Der Bote	152,300	148,832	158,825
52	MHC Archives	77,575	83,770	77,210
53	MHC Gallery	65,000	80,368	60,275
54	Total Partner Programs Expenses	756,875	770,440	421,310
55	Related Organizations			
56	Mennonite Mission Network	35,000	39,774	0
57	Mennonite Church USA	21,000	40,172	0
58	AMBS	85,000	80,999	85,000
59	Canadian Mennonite University	0	2,109	0
60	Mennonite Publishing Network	25,000	32,640	0
61	Messeritos Kristos College	100,000	197,765	0
62	Eastern Mennonite Missions	0	21,000	0
63	Mennonite World Conference	31,000	0	0
64	Total Related Organization Expenses	297,000	414,459	85,000
65	TOTAL EXPENSES	5,418,718	5,570,481	5,124,522
66	Operating Surplus/(Deficit) before extraordinary items	(122,944)	193,169	(106,964)
67	Other items	0	(9,096)	0
68	Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(122,944)	184,073	(106,964)
69	Transfer To Reserves	(61,880)	(270,574)	(54,312)
70	Transfer from Reserves	206,685	144,890	211,524
71	Transfer To Capital Reserves	(21,861)	(67,485)	(50,248)
72	Transfer from Reserves for extraordinary items	0	9,096	0
73	Net Transfers (to)/from Reserves	122,944	(184,073)	106,964
74	ENDING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	0	0	0
75	Note: 1. This schedule has not been audited.			

general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment



Councils and Committees

MC Canada Elected and Appointed Leaders*		
	Province	Term Expires
General Board		
Henry Krause, Moderator	BC	2008
Garth Ewert Fisher, Assistant Moderator	SK	2008
Marlene Janzen, Secretary	AB	2007
Clare Schlegel, Treasurer	ON	2007
Hilda Hildebrand (appointed by General Board)	MB	2008
Jorge Hoajaca (appointed by General Board)	BC	2008
Andy Reesor-McDowell (appointed by General Board)	ON	2009
Karen Heidebrecht Thiessen (appointed by MCBC)	BC	2008
Linden Wilms (appointed by MCA)	AB	2009
Henry Block (appointed by MC Sask)	SK	2008
Hans Werner (appointed by MCM)	MB	2009
Leroy Shantz (appointed by MCEC)	ON	2008
Willard Metzger (Witness chair)	ON	2007
Ernest Epp (Witness representative)	SK	2008
Sue Steiner (Formation chair)	ON	2009
Jeremy Bergen (Formation representative)	ON	2007
Ed Janzen (Support Services chair)	BC	2008
Rudy Baergen (Faith and Life Committee chair)	MB	2008
Christian Formation Council		
Sue Steiner, Chair	ON	2009
Lisa Carr Pries	ON	2009
Pauline Steinmann	SK	2007
Jeremy Bergen	ON	2007
Don Rempel Boschman	MB	2007
Van Hoa Chau	MB	2008
Veronica Dyck	BC	2008
Earl Reimer	MB	2008
Coreen Froese	AB	2009
Naomi Unger	SK	2009
Christian Witness Council		
Willard Metzger, Chair	ON	2007
Eryn Enns	SK	2007
Andy Ahn	MB	2008
Noe Gonzalia	ON	2007
Rudy Dirks	ON	2007
Ernest Epp	SK	2008
Dori Zerbe Cornelsen	MB	2008
Laura Loewen	BC	2009
Irene Crosland	AB	2009
JD Penner	ON	2009
Support Services Council		
Ed Janzen, Chair	BC	2008
Brice Balmer	ON	2007
Bill Janzen	AB	2007
Mark Wurtz	SK	2008
Harry Wiens	MB	2009
Rita Strickland	ON	2008
Faith and Life Committee		
Rudy Baergen, Chair	MB	2008
Karl Koop	MB	2007
Doreen Neufeld	AB	2009
Betty Pries (appointed by General Board)	ON	2008
Financial Policy and Audit Committee		
Clare Schlegel, Treasurer and Chair	ON	2007
Helen Kasdorf (appointed by General Board)	MB	2008
Ingrid Peters-Fransen (appointed by General Board)	MB	2007
Nominating Committee		
Lorne Buhr (appointed by MCA)	AB	2009
Clare Neufeld (appointed by MCBC)	BC	2007
Ken H. Loewen (appointed by MCM)	MB	2007
Gladys Bender (appointed by MCEC)	ON	2008
Dave Feick (appointed by MC Sask)	SK	2009
*Unless otherwise noted, leaders are elected by the MC Canada Delegate Assembly		

general
formation
witness
support services
finance
discernment



Nominees

GENERAL BOARD



Don Friesen

Don Friesen, Ottawa ON (Ottawa Mennonite Church)
Nominated as General Board Secretary

Occupation: Leading minister for 29 years.

Local church involvements: secretary of the Refugee Assistance Program Committee for ten years, chair of the Worship Committee.

Other vocational and volunteer experience: Member of the executive of the Christian Council of the Capital Area for 20 years as president, vice-president, and several times as secretary; secretary of the local Habitat for Humanity Church Relations Committee

Vision/Goal for MC Canada: To encourage faithfulness to Jesus Christ; to provide resources for local congregations that encourage unity of purpose and action and promote conference loyalty; to give leadership to national and international witness in a manner sufficiently flexible to incorporate congregational initiatives.

WITNESS



Lynell Bergen

Lynell Bergen, Winnipeg MB (Charleswood Mennonite Church)

Occupation: Mental Health and Disabilities Program Coordinator, MCC Manitoba, focused on inclusion and healing for people with mental illness and disabilities, in the context of the broader church community.

Local church involvements: Sunday School teacher, worship committee member, choir member, pastoral advisory committee member.

Other vocational and volunteer experience: Co-pastor, Arnaud Mennonite Church (1993-1999); mission worker with Mennonite Church Canada Witness in Mthatha, South Africa (1999-2006) working with African Indigenous Churches and with AIDS issues.

Vision/Goal for MC Canada: Being relevant in an ever-changing world means listening to the world around us, and responding to it in light of God's Good News. Being relevant to God's Good News means being radical in the eyes of the world, in our message of peace-making, justice for all people, and care for God's creation.



Noe Gonzalia

Noe Gonzalia, Kitchener ON (First Mennonite Church - Kitchener)
Served on the Christian Witness Council since 2001

Occupation: Pastor of Hispanic Ministry

Local church involvements: Pastor representative on Mission and Service Board, constantly involved in cross-cultural issues related to the missional character of the church.

Other vocational and volunteer experience: Liaison person for Hispanic church planting in Sherbrooke, Quebec (MCEC).

Vision/Goal for MC Canada: My dreams and hopes for MC Canada are related to the missional path we have embraced following the character of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This vision is beginning to take root both within the local churches and within the structural realm of area churches and national church. This powerful and dynamic vision will bring together the real interest of all of us. It will no longer be the "we-they" pattern of relationship. Instead, it will be the "all of us" working together side by side as fellow servants of the true master of the church, Jesus Christ.



Rudy Dirks, Niagara-on-the-Lake ON (Niagara United Mennonite Church)

Served on the Christian Witness Council since 2004

Occupation: Pastor

Local church involvements: Adult Sunday School teaching, preaching, counselling, worship leading, youth work, pastoral care and funerals, marriage preparation and weddings, men's ministries, seniors' ministries, married couples' fellowship, leadership training, mentoring.

Other vocational and volunteer experience: Marriage and family counseling, leading seminars on Myers-Briggs personality types, leadership development with college students, college chaplaincy ministries, overseas mission work with African Indigenous Churches in Botswana, HIV/AIDS counselling training with church volunteers.

Special interests: Cross-cultural communication and ministry, lay leadership development in congregations.

Vision/Goal for MC Canada: Mennonite Church Canada is a significant part of the Kingdom of God. The most important thing I can think of is that the individuals, congregations, and area churches that make up MC Canada would grow closer to God and live more and more under the influence of His Kingdom, as we walk in discipleship with Jesus, allowing His Spirit to fill us with compassion, love, and wisdom for the world in which we live.

Willard Metzger, Drayton ON (Community Mennonite Fellowship)

Nominated as chair of the Christian Witness Council

Served as chair of the Christian Witness Council since 2001

Occupation: Director of Church Relations at World Vision Canada.

Other vocational and volunteer experience: Pastor in MCEC for 20 years; past chair Mission and Service Commission (MCEC); past chair Foundation of International Development Assistance (FIDA).

Special interests: Enjoys the unique perspectives of communities in the various regions of Canada and around the world.

Visional/Goal for MC Canada: To see Mennonite congregations across Canada grow in an enthusiastic embrace of engaging the activity of God in their communities and around the world.

FORMATION

Erwin Tiessen, Rosthern SK (Eigenheim Mennonite Church)

Occupation: Retired school teacher/principal.

Local church involvements: Currently a deacon, also served as worship committee member and occasional pulpit assistant/speaker.

Other vocational and volunteer experience: Spent over 30 years in Mennonite church school education as teacher and administrator at United Mennonite Educational Institute and Rosthern Junior College.

Vision/Goal for MC Canada: My work in Mennonite schools has confirmed for me the significant and very crucial role that our schools play in the life of our congregations and church structures. Our church structures need to find avenues to partner more closely in the lives and education of their youth and young adults from Kindergarten to seminary.



Rudy Dirks



Willard Metzger



Erwin Tiessen

I am eager to help define a relationship between our congregations/structures and our schools, and to have both parties understand the need for the other in our calling to be church and educator. Mennonite Church Canada, area churches and congregations need to find ways for the church to continue to be seen as significant and relevant to both our current membership and others seeking church affiliation. In particular, we need to highlight those understandings and perspectives that our Mennonite churches hold that are sought out by others beyond our circles. We need to profile our interest and strengths in service, peace, engaging other faiths, and building community and understand these as God's gifts to us which we are called to share in the building of His Kingdom.

Pauline Steinmann, Saskatoon SK (Wildwood Mennonite Church)

Served on the Christian Formation Council since 2003

Occupation: Pastor

Other vocational and volunteer experience: Co-chair of the MC Saskatchewan Pastoral Leadership Commission; served on the boards of the Ten Thousand Villages store in Saint John, New Brunswick and of OPAL, a residential service for disabled persons; served in various congregations as a member and chair of the worship committee, member of the pastoral team, adult and children's Sunday School teacher, youth sponsor, worship leader.

Special interests: Firm believer in the ongoing need for spiritual formation throughout life; interested in how that best happens at different stages in life.

Vision/Goal for MC Canada: My hope for the church is that we would be a vibrant, relevant church, able and ready to respond to the challenges both locally and globally, to use our comfortable middle class North American abundance for the good of the world.

Tom Yoder Neufeld, Waterloo ON (First Mennonite Church – Kitchener)

Occupation: Professor at the University of Waterloo.

Local church involvements: Member of visioning committee, Sunday School teacher, song leader, occasional preacher.

Other vocational and volunteer experience: Hospital and prison chaplaincy; pastor in Thompson, MB and Boston, MA; involved in teaching Bible at Conrad Grebel University College since 1983; director of Master of Theological Studies program from 2000-2006; frequent teacher and preacher in congregations and at conferences.

Special interests: Pastoral leadership formation.

Vision/Goal for MC Canada: Apart from the goals I share with all members of MC Canada, I wish to contribute in particular to meeting the urgent need for pastoral and theological leadership, and to consider how MC Canada might facilitate meeting that need as a shared enterprise among the various institutions devoted to leadership formation and education.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Dianne Hildebrand Schlegel, Morden MB (Morden Mennonite Church)

Occupation: Associate Pastor of Christian Formation.

Local church involvements: Enjoys making music and teaching with all age groups in the congregation.

Other vocational and volunteer experience: Resource to communications staff in MC



Pauline Steinmann



Tom Yoder-Neufeld



Diane Hildebrand Schlegel

Canada, participated in a communications audit in MCEC, served on writing team for Lent 2007 worship materials, mother of three children, worked as an occupational therapist for 11 years.

Vision/Goal for MC Canada: I have a particular interest and hope for the ways that we connect and network as the congregations of MC Canada. We have much to learn from each other – from what God is doing and wants to do among us and through us – in communities all across this country.

Bill Janzen, Calgary AB (Foothills Mennonite Church)
Served on the Support Services Council since 2006

Occupation: Financial consultant.

Local church involvements: Worship leader, has served on church council and search committees.

Other vocational and volunteer experience: Extensive involvement with the MCC Relief Sale and some involvement with Menno Simons Christian School.

Special interests: A vision for the broader church and issues of stewardship and management.

Vision/Goal for MC Canada: My vision for MC Canada is that it continue on the path of trying to live into what God wants us to be. I appreciate the strong Anabaptist/Mennonite perspective that I have been nurtured in, but also realize that spirituality is not static. I look forward to experiencing the discernment, discovery, and discipleship at the level of the broader church.

FAITH AND LIFE COMMITTEE

Karl Koop, Winnipeg MB (First Mennonite Church - Winnipeg)
Served on Faith and Life Committee since 2005

Occupation: Associate Professor of History and Theology at Canadian Mennonite University.

Local church involvements: Various committees, preaching, worship leading and music.

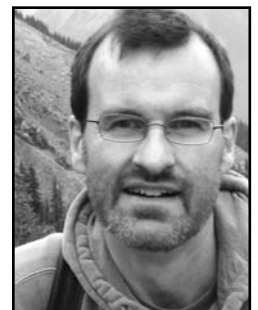
Other vocational and volunteer experience: Associate pastor at St. Catharines United Mennonite Church; worked with MCC in pastoral work and ecumenical relations in Germany; Assistant Professor of Theology and Anabaptist-Mennonite Studies at AMBS from 1997-2002.

Special interests: Anabaptist-Mennonite history and theology; ecumenism.

Vision/Goal for MC Canada: My hope is that Mennonite Church Canada will be faithful to the gospel of Jesus Christ through worship, fellowship, mission and service. The road to faithfulness necessarily includes understanding one's own tradition and conversing with the wider church – for in a divided world, no ecclesiology can exist in isolation; it must be ecumenically oriented.



Bill Janzen



Karl Koop

general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment

Affirmation Statements for Assembly 2007

Introduction

The three affirmation statements on creation care, young adults, and militarization that follow will each form the basis for a period of delegate discernment time at Abbotsford 2007. At the conclusion of each discernment time, delegates will be asked to approve the affirmation statement as a response to what they have experienced during that time.

What does it mean to approve these affirmation statements?

These statements are intended to affirm basic directions of our church. They should not be seen as breaking new ground but rather as putting what we already believe into a spotlight. They should be viewed as “road signs” on our journey as a church, indicating key values to each other and to a watching world. Affirming these statements allows us to highlight together our concern and commitment on these three important issues of our time and place.

Affirming these statements can help us to discuss our concerns and commitments with other Christians, people of other faiths, and people of no faith. For example, the statement on militarization could be used to communicate MC Canada’s position to our government, the Canadian Council of Churches, and the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada.

Affirming these statements can help us begin other important discussions and processes regarding these three issues. Affirming a statement together will not “resolve” any of the three issues we are addressing. Our intent is to speak to the issues, and, by doing so, to invite further reflection and action: What are we going to do? What can my congregation do? What can I do? Therefore, affirming these statements should be seen as a point on a journey of discernment and action, and not the end of it.

We encourage area churches and congregations to prepare their delegates by discussing these affirmation statements with them in advance. The questions below are offered to guide that discussion. Additional discussion questions and materials will be provided during the discernment time at the assembly.

1. Does the affirmation statement speak to the heart of the issue it addresses?
2. Does your congregation or area church support the basic direction affirmed by the statement? Why or why not?
3. What questions, concerns or ideas for further process are inspired in your congregation or area church by the affirmation statement?

general
formation
witness
support services
finance
discernment



Affirmation Statements for Assembly 2007

1 **CREATION CARE**

2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9

Mennonite Church Canada believes that God longs for the well-being and health of the whole world, for all of creation is bound together and belongs to God, who has created and who preserves all things. Our concern for faithfulness and discipleship should also lead us to care for creation. Mennonite Church Canada believes that God is calling us to commit ourselves to discern the paths of faithfulness to be good stewards of the earth.

10 **YOUNG ADULTS**

11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23

Mennonite Church Canada desires to be an affirming home for the growth of faith and commitment for young adults and needs the creativity and fresh perspective they bring.

Because the wellbeing of the present and future church depends on our capacity to incorporate young adults we **must** be proactive in creating space for young adults to offer and exercise their God-given gifts in leadership and service, in the life and ministries of the church. We pray for the grace to be flexible and to act courageously to make this possible, even if it feels threatening to the institutions and practices of our present and past. We proclaim this affirmation so that the whole body of Christ might grow in wisdom and knowledge and be empowered by the Holy Spirit toward the fulfillment of God's dream.

24 **MILITARIZATION**

25
26
27
28
29
30
31

Mennonite Church Canada believes that "peace is the will of God" and that we need to "witness to all people that violence is not the will of God" (COF, p 81-82) Given this gospel understanding, we lament and oppose that the imaginations of our church and society are increasingly captivated by confidence in military solutions to human problems. May God grant us wisdom to discern and grace to act in ways that promote God's will for peace on earth.



Outdoor advertising for the Canadian military

general
formation
witness
support services
finance
discernment



A Letter to the Government (2006 follow-up)

Follow-up to Edmonton Resolution on Conscientious Objection to payment of taxes for military purposes.

At the Mennonite Church Canada assembly in Edmonton (July 2006), delegates passed a resolution asking MC Canada to "...make representation ... to the Government of Canada, urging the government to enact legislation which would allow conscientious objectors to direct the military portion of their taxes to activities of development and peace."

The letter to government leaders that follows is a response to the 2006 resolution. Additional discernment time at this assembly will be devoted to discussing possible further actions in regards to this 2006 resolution.

The Right Honorable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
April, 2007

Dear Mr. Harper:

On behalf of the 225 congregations and 33,000 members that make up Mennonite Church Canada, we address you with concerns over our common quest for peace in our world. This quest must begin with our own actions for peace as individuals and as a church, but must also include our government in both domestic and foreign policy arenas. We are encouraged in this quest by the words of former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney:

*So I approach the **pursuit of peace** with determination, recognizing both the enormity of the task and the **requirement for action**. To those who say it cannot be done, I say **it must be done**. To those who say Canada can't do it alone, I say **we can do it together**. And to those who claim it is none of our business, I say **the search for peace is everyone's business**.*

Specifically, we urge your government to support a Private Member's Bill that will be introduced into the House by Bill Siksay (Member of Parliament for Burnaby – Douglas in British Columbia) that would allow for Conscientious Objection to the payment of those taxes designated for military purposes. This is an historic initiative, and we urge you to support this Bill when it is introduced. But more than that, we urge you to mobilize your government and members of Parliament of both sides of the House to support this Bill.

The "pursuit of" and the "search for" peace are also at the heart of our sacred scripture. The Psalmist exhorts us to "seek peace and pursue it" (Psalm 34:14). The Apostle Paul instructs us to "pursue what makes for peace" (Romans 14:19). The Apostle Peter teaches us to "seek peace and pursue it" (I Peter 3:11). And Jesus the Christ taught us that the best way to deal with enemies is to "love them" and to "pray" for them (Matthew 5:44). Mennonite

general
formation
witness
support services
finance
discernment



Church Canada is a Christian denomination that has had the “search for and pursuit of peace” in our heart and soul since our inception in Canada in the early 1800s, and before that in the birth of the Anabaptist movement in Europe in the 16th century, and before that in the words and life of Jesus of Nazareth, the foundation of our church.

We wrote to you in July/2006 about our concern regarding the escalation of military response in Lebanon, Gaza, and Israel. At that time we expressed our concern as follows:

We are concerned about what appears to be a multi-faceted and intentional escalation of public advocacy, decisions, and actions that foster the increasing militarization of the Canadian mind, psyche, soul, and imagination.

Since then our concern has only increased. In July 2006, the delegates of our congregations, meeting in our annual Assembly in Edmonton, expressed their concern in a tangible way. They went beyond affirming our historic conviction that Conscientious Objection status needs to be available for those who cannot in good conscience serve the military purposes of our nation, to express their reluctance to pay those taxes that finance the capacity of others to do so. The delegates asked that these concerns be brought to the attention of our government together with some suggestions about how the tax question could be addressed.

We are aware of and pleased with the initiative of Mr. Bill Siksay in introducing the Private Members Bill C-348 on June 22/06. This Bill, *Conscientious Objection to the Use of Taxes for Military Purposes*, proposed a vehicle which addressed some of our concerns and we applaud this effort.

We have been working with Mr. Siksay, and with other concerned groups coordinated by Conscience Canada, to strengthen the impact of this Bill. Mr. Siksay is now drafting a new strengthened Bill to be introduced into Parliament at the earliest opportunity. This Bill will propose concrete ways in which our concerns can be more fully addressed. Not only will it propose a way in which the end-use of our taxes is subject to the conscience of the taxpayer, it will also suggest alternate ways in which those same tax-dollars can be effectively used for the pursuit of peace via nonviolent and peaceful means.

The logic for this Bill is clear. The end-use and impact of our money are as important as are the end-use and impact of our actions. If conscience is a legitimate cause for exemption to what we oppose, namely military service, conscience must also be a legitimate cause for exemption *to pay* for what we oppose, namely military action.

Allowing taxpayers to designate their taxes to nonviolent strategies is only one small step in our “search for” and “pursuit of” peace. We also urge you to become a world spokesperson and statesman in the promotion of a peace that is gained through peaceful (and not violent) means.

For example, Mr. Prime Minister, it is not convincing to us that the Canadian military forces should be seen and promoted as being the front line of “rebuilding the infrastructure” and engaging in “development” work in Afghanistan, as we hear your officials and military spokespersons argue so often. By this we are not suggesting that Canada should not be engaged in developing that and other countries. But it is not logical that our military forces should be the vehicle for social development and re-construction there. Again we would call you to an alternative imagination in how the same level of budget could be used for the social and economic development of Afghanistan but via development organizations that have a solid reputation for using nonviolent strategies for social development.

We draw your attention to the words of another eminent Canadian, also a predecessor to you. The words of Lester Pearson, although spoken half a century ago, are as relevant (or more so) today as they were then:

general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment



The stark and inescapable fact is that today we cannot defend our society by war since total war is total destruction, and if war is used as an instrument of policy, eventually we will have total war. Therefore, the best defense of peace is not power, but the removal of the causes of war, and international agreements which will put peace on a stronger foundation than the terror of destruction (1957).

[We must search for] peace based on something more enduring than force (1955).

Mr. Prime Minister, we pray for you, we are open to meet with you, and we are prepared to work with you and your government toward transforming the increasing Canadian confidence in military solutions into a strengthened imagination for the potential of nonviolent options regarding the complex issues facing your government and our world. Other statespersons have, in the past, demonstrated the positive impact of such alternative imaginations. We urge you to now step into that circle and continue the legacy of peacekeeping and peacemaking that Canada has established at home and abroad. In doing so you will be giving leadership to the “new imagination” for peace that we called you to exercise in our July 2006 letter to you.

Statistics from the United Nations tell us that in 2005 the annual world military expenditure reached \$1.1 trillion dollars while the United Nations spent approximately \$5 billion dollars on peacekeeping efforts. This is less than 0.5% of military expenditure. Can we imagine ways in which these numbers could be inverted? The increasing militarization of the world, and the reactive militarization of Canada, is not the road to peace. We urge you, Mr. Prime Minister, to demonstrate a Canadian commitment to the pursuit of peace by supporting provisions, such as the upcoming Bill, that advocate for nonviolent strategies, and at the same time to become a proactive proponent that encourages the imaginations of our citizens in the search for peace via peaceful means.

Prime Minister Trudeau, in accepting the annual award of the Albert Einstein Peace Prize Foundation (1984) stated:

... politicians act as if peace is too complicated for them.

Our confidence is that peace is not “too complicated” for us. This confidence arises from our faith that God is at work and that God’s strategy, as illustrated through Jesus Christ, is a strategy of nonviolent communities pursuing peace via peaceful lives and means. This confidence is more than sectarian religious conviction. There is by now ample evidence from multiple sources and experiences within and beyond the church that point to the wisdom of this confidence. Nonviolent strategies do indeed have the power to effectively engage the societal and global cul-de-sac of confronting the injustice of violence with further violence that inevitably generates additional injustice. We call on you to help Canadians break this spiral of violence and foster imaginations of peace for the sake of and the pursuit of peace.

Sincerely,

Henry Krause
Moderator,
Mennonite Church Canada

Robert J. Suderman
General Secretary,
Mennonite Church Canada

Janet Plenert
Executive Secretary,
Mennonite Church
Canada Witness

**general
formation
witness
support services
finance
discernment**



Audited Financial Statements

(Independently numbered section)

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Audited Financial Statements
Table of Contents

Year ended January 31, 2007

	Page
Auditors' Report.....	1
Statement of Financial Position.....	2
Statement of Operations.....	3
Statement of Changes in Fund Balances.....	4
Statement of Cash Flows.....	5
Notes to Financial Statements.....	6
Schedule A - Expenses for Christian Witness Council Program.....	16
Schedule B - Expenses for Christian Formation Council Program.....	17
Schedule C - Expenses for Support Services Council Program.....	18
Schedule D - Expenses for General Board.....	19
Schedule E - Expenses for Partner Programs.....	20
Schedule F - Contributions to Related Organizations.....	21



KPMG LLP
Chartered Accountants
Suite 2000 – One Lombard Place
Winnipeg MB R3B 0X3
Canada

Telephone (204) 957-1770
Fax (204) 957-0808
Internet www.kpmg.ca

AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of Mennonite Church Canada

We have audited the statement of financial position of Mennonite Church Canada as at January 31, 2007 and the statements of operations, changes in fund balances and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the organization's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the organization as at January 31, 2007 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Our audit was made for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The current year's supplementary information included in the schedules A through F is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such supplementary information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Signed "**KPMG LLP**"

Chartered Accountants

Winnipeg, Canada

March 30, 2007

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Statement of Financial Position

January 31, 2007, with comparative figures for 2006

			2007	2006
	General Fund	Capital Fund	Total	Total
Assets				
Current assets:				
Cash	\$ 1,387,120	\$ -	\$ 1,387,120	\$ 1,520,290
Accounts receivable (note 3)	523,369	-	523,369	476,709
Current portion of loans receivable	-	-	-	153,982
	1,910,489	-	1,910,489	2,150,981
Loans receivable from related parties (note 4)	-	-	-	1,287,950
Inter-fund balance receivable (payable)	(75,726)	75,726	-	-
Investments (note 5)	1,371,402	-	1,371,402	1,196,774
Capital assets (note 6)	-	347,806	347,806	1,058,095
	\$ 3,206,165	\$ 423,532	\$ 3,629,697	\$ 5,693,800

Liabilities, Deferred Contributions and Fund Balances

Current liabilities:				
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 701,112	\$ -	\$ 701,112	\$ 936,241
Demand notes payable (note 7)	-	-	-	1,343,772
	701,112	-	701,112	2,280,013
Deferred contributions (note 8)	1,087,626	114,701	1,202,327	1,619,940
Other loans payable	35,038	-	35,038	35,569
Fund balances:				
Invested in capital assets	-	169,619	169,619	368,601
Externally restricted (note 9)	274,375	-	274,375	268,992
Internally restricted (note 10)	1,108,014	139,212	1,247,226	1,120,685
	1,382,389	308,831	1,691,220	1,758,278
Contingent liabilities (note 11)				
	\$ 3,206,165	\$ 423,532	\$ 3,629,697	\$ 5,693,800

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

On behalf of the Board:

 Director

 Director

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Statement of Operations

Year ended January 31, 2007, with comparative figures for 2006

	General Fund	Capital Fund	2007 Total	2006 Total
Revenues for MC Canada programs:				
Donations and bequests	\$ 3,679,723	\$ –	\$ 3,679,723	\$ 3,742,451
Interest	152,247	3,723	155,970	171,536
Sales, services and fees	270,786	–	270,786	255,364
Grants from partner agencies	426,331	–	426,331	457,607
Amortization of deferred contributions (note 8)	49,738	101,501	151,239	163,854
	4,578,825	105,224	4,684,049	4,790,812
Revenues for partner programs:				
Donations and bequests	392,120	–	392,120	421,049
Grants	12,909	–	12,909	6,650
Interest	6,477	–	6,477	2,356
Sales, services and fees	162,736	–	162,736	159,520
Grants from partner agencies	–	–	–	10,000
Amortization of deferred contributions (note 8)	196,123	–	196,123	188,209
	770,365	–	770,365	787,784
Revenue for related organizations:				
Donation and bequests	414,458	–	414,458	374,748
Total revenues	5,763,648	105,224	5,868,872	5,953,344
Expenses for MC Canada programs:				
Christian Witness Council (schedule A)	2,282,450	–	2,282,450	2,402,067
Christian Formation Council (schedule B)	369,650	–	369,650	359,391
Support Services Council (schedule C)	903,709	–	903,709	847,384
General Board (schedule D)	829,772	–	829,772	847,088
	4,385,581	–	4,385,581	4,455,930
Expenses for Partner Programs (schedule E)	770,440	–	770,440	790,099
Contributions to related organizations (schedule F)	414,459	–	414,459	374,748
Amortization of capital assets	–	185,742	185,742	171,184
Total expenses and contributions	5,570,480	185,742	5,756,222	5,791,961
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses before the undernoted	193,168	(80,518)	112,650	161,383
Bi-national asset distribution adjustment (note 12)	–	–	–	(17,835)
Contributions to Mennonite Church Manitoba for Native Ministries	–	–	–	(30,000)
Mennonite Voluntary Service distribution	(9,096)	–	(9,096)	–
Transfer of land	–	(2,000)	(2,000)	–
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	\$ 184,072	\$ (82,518)	\$ 101,554	\$ 113,548

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Statement of Changes in Fund Balances

Year ended January 31, 2007, with comparative figures for 2006

	Invested in capital assets	Externally restricted	Internally restricted	Unrestricted	2007 Total	2006 Total
General Fund:						
Balance, beginning of year	\$ -	\$ 268,992	\$ 991,426	\$ -	\$ 1,260,418	\$ 1,165,767
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	-	-	(9,096)	193,168	184,072	181,619
Transfer to Capital Fund (note 10)	-	-	-	(67,484)	(67,484)	(95,305)
Transfer from Capital Fund	-	-	-	-	-	5,000
Transfer from internally restricted funds (note 10)	-	-	(144,890)	144,890	-	-
Transfer to internally restricted funds (note 10)	-	-	270,574	(270,574)	-	-
Endowment contributions	-	5,383	-	-	5,383	3,337
Balance, end of year	\$ -	\$ 274,375	\$ 1,108,014	\$ -	\$ 1,382,389	\$ 1,260,418
Capital Fund:						
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 368,601	\$ -	\$ 129,259	\$ -	\$ 497,860	\$ 475,627
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	(86,241)	-	3,723	-	(82,518)	(68,071)
	282,360	-	132,982	-	415,342	407,556
Transfer to General Fund	-	-	-	-	-	(5,000)
Transfer from General Fund (note 10)	52,856	-	14,628	-	67,484	95,304
Transfer from internally restricted funds (note 10)	8,398	-	(8,398)	-	-	-
Transfer of capital assets to CMU [note 13(a)]	(575,664)	-	-	-	(575,664)	-
Deferred contributions relating to the transfer of capital assets [note 13(a)]	401,669	-	-	-	401,669	-
Balance, end of year	\$ 169,619	\$ -	\$ 139,212	\$ -	\$ 308,831	\$ 497,860

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended January 31, 2007, with comparative figures for 2006

	2007	2006
Cash provided by (used in):		
Operations:		
Excess of revenues over expenses	\$ 101,554	\$ 113,548
Items not involving cash:		
Amortization of capital assets	185,742	171,184
Amortization of deferred contributions	(347,362)	(352,063)
Transfer of land	2,000	-
Change in non-cash operating working capital:		
Accounts receivable	(46,660)	90,873
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(235,129)	71,846
Increase in deferred contributions relating to General Fund	331,420	235,905
	(8,435)	331,293
Financing:		
Endowment contributions received	5,383	3,337
Principal repayment of demand notes payable	(1,343,774)	(224,505)
Decrease in other loans payable	(531)	(2,576)
	(1,338,922)	(223,744)
Investments:		
Repayment of loan receivable from related party	1,441,932	159,610
Additions to capital assets	(53,117)	(58,674)
Increase in investments	(174,628)	(11,600)
	1,214,187	89,336
Increase (decrease) in cash	(133,170)	196,885
Cash, beginning of year	1,520,290	1,323,405
Cash, end of year	\$ 1,387,120	\$ 1,520,290

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended January 31, 2007

1. General:

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

MC Canada is a body of Mennonite congregations which works in partnership with provincial/regional conferences in the mission and ministry of the church of Jesus Christ. It provides, facilitates and coordinates national and other programs that support the ministry of its congregations and partner area conferences. MC Canada works closely with other national Mennonite conferences, particularly Mennonite Church USA, cooperates with various inter-Mennonite and other Christian agencies, and represents national and international programs and concerns to its constituency.

MC Canada is a corporation without share capital incorporated under the laws of Canada and is registered with Canada Revenue Agency as a charitable organization with registration number 10696-7086-RR0001.

2. Significant accounting policies:

(a) Fund accounting:

Assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses related to MC Canada's capital assets, capital campaigns, and internally restricted funds for future asset purchases are recorded in the Capital Fund. All other assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses are reported in the General Fund.

(b) Revenue recognition:

MC Canada follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions, which include donations and government grants.

Externally restricted contributions, other than endowment contributions, are deferred and recognized as revenue of the appropriate fund in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Contributions restricted for the purchase of capital assets are deferred and amortized into revenue at a rate corresponding with the amortization rate for the related capital assets.

MC Canada has established an internal policy to generally recognize revenue on externally restricted bequests at the lesser of the related expense incurred during the year and 10 percent of the particular deferred balance.

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2007

2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

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

Endowment contributions are recorded as a direct increase to the externally restricted fund balance of the General Fund.

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

Investment income on unrestricted assets is recognized as revenue when earned. Investment income earned on deferred contributions is recognized as revenue in the same period as the related expenses of the deferred contribution are recognized.

Investment income earned on bequest funds and on the Church Building Fund are recognized directly into revenue of the General Fund.

Government grants relating to program delivery and administration are recognized as revenue of the General Fund in the year in which they apply.

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

(d) Investments:

Investments are recorded at cost. If there is an impairment in value that is other than temporary, the investment is written down to market value.

(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.

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2007

2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

(f) Foreign currency:

Monetary items denominated in foreign currency are translated to Canadian dollars at exchange rates in effect at the balance sheet date and non-monetary items are translated at rates of exchange in effect when the assets were acquired or obligations incurred. Revenues and expenses are translated at rates in effect at the time of the transactions. Foreign exchange gains and losses are included in income.

(g) Use of estimates:

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the year. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

3. Accounts receivable:

	2007	2006
Donations receivable	\$ 330,133	\$ 235,261
Other	193,236	241,448
	<u>\$ 523,369</u>	<u>\$ 476,709</u>

4. Loans receivable from related parties:

	2007	2006
Canadian Mennonite University	\$ —	\$ 460,265
Mennonite Publishing Network	—	981,667
	—	1,441,932
Current portion	—	153,982
	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 1,287,950</u>

During the year, interest in the amount of \$68,760 (2006 - \$68,319) was received from these loans receivable.

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2007

5. Investments:

	2007	2006
Mennonite Foundation of Canada:		
Annuities	\$ 25,096	\$ 25,698
Church Building Fund Trust	442,191	442,191
Endowments, bequests and other	732,998	563,369
Canada Life Insurance Company	160,861	157,431
Crosstown Credit Union surplus shares	10,256	8,085
	<u>\$ 1,371,402</u>	<u>\$ 1,196,774</u>

The market value approximates the carrying value of these investments.

6. Capital assets:

	2007		2006	
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net book value	Net book value
Land	\$ 75,983	\$ –	\$ 75,983	\$ 131,178
Buildings [note 13(a)]:				
Educational	–	–	–	600,274
Witness field properties	90,767	74,975	15,792	19,601
Heritage Centre	683,377	611,726	71,651	78,411
Conference administration	787,191	685,519	101,672	141,031
	<u>1,561,335</u>	<u>1,372,220</u>	<u>189,115</u>	<u>839,317</u>
Vehicles, equipment and furnishings	507,302	424,594	82,708	87,600
	<u>\$ 2,144,620</u>	<u>\$ 1,796,814</u>	<u>\$ 347,806</u>	<u>\$ 1,058,095</u>

7. Demand notes payable:

	2007	2006
Demand promissory note, Crosstown Credit Union	\$ –	\$ 968,162
Demand promissory note, Crosstown Credit Union	–	375,610
	<u>\$ –</u>	<u>\$ 1,343,772</u>

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2007

8. Deferred contributions:

(a) General Fund:

Deferred contributions reported in the General Fund relate to externally restricted operating contributions which have not yet been disbursed for their intended purpose. Investment earnings relating to these amounts, are included as deferred contributions. Changes in the deferred contributions balance reported in the General Fund are as follows:

	2007	Investment income	Received and not disbursed	Recognized as revenue	2006
Witness Council:					
Witness Bequest Fund	\$ 357,628	\$ –	\$ 148,683	\$ (23,216)	\$ 232,161
Native ministries:					
Emergency Support Fund	4,446	161	–	(2,595)	6,880
Jeremiah's Dream	3,684	112	–	(600)	4,172
Language training	3,896	127	–	(1,250)	5,019
Native education	7,392	222	–	(1,059)	8,229
Youth and children's programs	3,243	91	–	–	3,152
Ukraine ministries:					
Zap Program	–	25	–	(1,820)	1,795
Zap Capital	–	17	–	(1,276)	1,259
Kherson Programs	2,631	82	2,549	(3,148)	3,148
Christian Peacemaker Teams	46,404	1,552	44,852	(62,910)	62,910
North American Vietnamese Mennonite Fellowship	29,799	990	20,387	(31,524)	39,946
Colombia Leadership					
Development (10 year)	30,000	937	–	(6,937)	36,000
Partner Projects	21,816	–	21,816	(10,001)	10,001
Mennonite Voluntary Service					
Adventures	12,449	177	5,595	(1,603)	8,280
Church Building Fund	442,191	–	–	–	442,191
	965,579	4,493	243,882	(147,939)	865,143
Formation Council:					
Formation Bequest Fund	4,237	–	–	(471)	4,708
Translation	5,301	237	–	(6,335)	11,399
Company of 1000	33,186	912	32,274	(31,051)	31,051
Pastoral Counseling Fund	4,662	148	–	(1,280)	5,794
Education agency	14,966	440	–	(1,483)	16,009
Young adult resources	599	19	–	(167)	747
Anabaptist display	6,553	271	–	(6,282)	12,564
Gallery donations	48,634	1,412	47,222	(50,853)	50,853
Russian Mennonite research	3,909	108	–	–	3,801
	122,047	3,547	79,496	(97,922)	136,926
	\$ 1,087,626	\$ 8,040	\$ 323,378	\$ (245,861)	\$ 1,002,069

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2007

8. Deferred contributions (continued):

(b) Capital Fund:

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

	2007	2006
Beginning balance	\$ 617,871	\$ 719,517
Less amount recognized as revenue in the year	(101,501)	(101,646)
Less transfer of capital assets [note 13(a)]	(401,669)	-
Ending balance	\$ 114,701	\$ 617,871

9. External restrictions on General Fund balances:

External restrictions on General Fund balances are as follows:

	2007	2006
General Board Endowments:		
Conference administration building	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
MC Canada general endowment	8,445	8,445
	<u>108,445</u>	<u>108,445</u>
Witness Council Endowments:		
Native Ministries:		
Education endowment	16,753	16,753
General	2,000	2,000
Summer service	1,945	1,945
	<u>20,698</u>	<u>20,698</u>
Formation Council Endowment:		
Company of 1000	120,120	114,737
History archives endowment	25,112	25,112
	<u>145,232</u>	<u>139,849</u>
	<u>\$ 274,375</u>	<u>\$ 268,992</u>

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2007

10. Internally restricted fund balances:

(a) General Fund:

	2007	2006
Witness Council:		
Witness start-up	\$ 33,600	\$ 32,660
Witness future projects	12,825	10,075
Missional resources	9,638	9,368
Mission seminar	6,953	11,688
International Ministries	140,793	81,328
Native Ministries	67,563	65,671
Christian Peacemaker Teams	10,702	10,323
Mennonite Voluntary Service Adventures	38,911	46,918
Witness medical	6,788	6,598
	<u>327,773</u>	<u>274,629</u>
Formation Council:		
Der Bote	59,417	105,842
Youth Assembly	19,173	23,326
Youth Ministry Council Reserve	732	2,006
Gallery	62,598	49,944
Archives	11,436	6,680
Resource Creation	7,664	—
	<u>161,020</u>	<u>187,798</u>
Support Services Council:		
Major Repair Reserve	—	15,053
General Board:		
General bequests received to be used for program expenditures over a 10 year period	96,758	57,509
General	332,757	294,655
New projects	149,394	157,726
Mennonite World Conference	6,201	4,056
	<u>585,110</u>	<u>513,946</u>
Partner Program:		
Learning Tour	34,111	—
	<u>\$ 1,108,014</u>	<u>\$ 991,426</u>

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2007

10. Internally restricted fund balances (continued):

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

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

- (i) \$144,890 from the General Fund's internally restricted funds to the General Fund's unrestricted funds to cover program expenses for the year.
- (ii) \$270,574 to the General Fund's internally restricted funds from the General Fund's unrestricted funds to cover future program expenses.
- (iii) \$67,485 to the Capital Fund's internally restricted funds from the General Fund's unrestricted funds to cover future capital acquisitions.
- (iv) \$8,398 from the Capital Fund's internally restricted funds to cover capital asset acquisitions.

(b) Capital Fund:

	2007	2006
General capital	\$ 139,212	\$ 129,259

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

11. Contingent liabilities:

MC Canada has signed a guarantee for US\$57,820 of the total outstanding international loans of US\$151,428 which have been granted to international churches and agencies through Church Extension Services. Mennonite Mission Network has guaranteed the remaining US\$93,608.

MC Canada has guaranteed a loan of Mennonite Publishing Network, a related party, in the amount of \$250,000.

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2007

12. Bi-national net asset distribution:

As part of the dissolution of the General Conference Mennonite Church and the Mennonite Church as of January 31, 2002, assets and liabilities of these entities were distributed to their successor organizations, MC Canada and Mennonite Church USA.

13. Related party transactions:

(a) The Canadian Mennonite Bible College (CMBC), which was owned and operated by MC Canada, entered into a formal arrangement in prior years with two other Mennonite Colleges to form the Canadian Mennonite University (CMU). CMU was formed in order to increase the effectiveness, both in serving the Mennonite constituency and in witnessing to the larger society, by providing university level training consistent with a Christian perspective rooted in the Anabaptist-Mennonite tradition. CMU was incorporated in 1998 as a corporation without share capital by *The Mennonite College Federation and Consequential Amendments Act* of Manitoba. The members of the corporation are CMBC, Concord College and Menno Simons College.

Mennonite Properties Inc. (MPI), which is owned equally by MC Canada and the Mennonite Brethren Church of Manitoba, purchased land and buildings at 500 Shaftesbury Boulevard to be utilized solely for the operations of CMU. Although the legal title is with MPI, the beneficial ownership of 500 Shaftesbury rests with CMU. All decisions of MPI must be approved by a majority of the Board members from each of MPI's owners.

On November 1, 2006, MC Canada transferred ownership of the property at 600 Shaftesbury to CMU for total cash consideration of \$1. As part of this transfer, MC Canada retained the beneficial ownership of the conference offices and the Heritage Centre by way of a 99 year capital lease agreement. MC Canada does not pay rent on this lease but is responsible for all utility and maintenance costs associated with these properties.

The above transaction was recorded at book value resulting in a decrease in the equity of the Capital Fund of \$575,664. In addition, as a result of this transaction, the related deferred capital contributions in the amount of \$401,669 were recorded as an increase in the equity of the Capital Fund.

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended January 31, 2007

13. Related party transactions (continued):

(b) Mennonite Publishing Network:

Mennonite Publishing Network (MPN) 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 MPN's board of directors.

(c) MC Canada sponsors a defined contribution pension plan for its employees and its member churches and related organizations. The plan is registered under the *Pension Benefits Act* of Manitoba, registration number 0228650. The pension plan is administered by Group Retirement Services (GRS). During fiscal year 2006, MC Canada was paid \$52,438 by GRS for services provided in relation to administering the plan. MC Canada made employer contributions to the plan in the amount of \$112,544 (2006 - \$113,234).

14. Fair value of financial assets and liabilities:

The fair values of cash, accounts receivable, accounts payable and accrued liabilities and other loans payable approximate their carrying value due to their relative short term to maturity.

15. Comparative figures:

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with the financial statement presentation adopted in the current year.

Page 16
Schedule A

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Expenses for Christian Witness Council Program

Year ended January 31, 2007, with comparative figures for 2006

	2007	2006
Executive office	\$ 125,716	\$ 135,871
Congregational partnerships	148,766	133,637
National ministries administration	9,311	39,855
Multi-cultural ministry	38,442	38,128
Native ministries	110,882	103,804
International ministries	1,849,333	1,950,772
	<u>\$ 2,282,450</u>	<u>\$ 2,402,067</u>

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Expenses for Christian Formation Council Program

Year ended January 31, 2007, with comparative figures for 2006

	2007	2006
Executive office	\$ 139,148	\$ 137,721
Resource Centre	74,069	62,496
Ministerial and congregational leadership	76,656	78,798
Youth ministry	27,629	30,261
Youth assembly	4,756	-
Education and nurture ministries	47,392	46,664
Other	-	3,451
	\$ 369,650	\$ 359,391

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Expenses for Support Services Council Program

Year ended January 31, 2007, with comparative figures for 2006

	2007	2006
Administration	\$ 381,699	\$ 328,612
Annual assembly	88,433	84,738
Communications	146,712	145,307
Development	114,676	112,412
Canadian Mennonite	172,189	176,315
	\$ 903,709	\$ 847,384

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Expenses for General Board

Year ended January 31, 2007, with comparative figures for 2006

	2007	2006
Administration	\$ 213,785	\$ 211,725
Finance	259,762	259,778
Foreign exchange loss	(7,378)	7,013
Mennonite World Conference grants	38,000	38,000
Canadian Mennonite University grants	325,603	330,572
	\$ 829,772	\$ 847,088

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Expenses for Partner Programs

Year ended January 31, 2007, with comparative figures for 2006

	2007	2006
Partner Projects/New Initiatives	\$ 41,589	\$ 96,194
International Worker Special Projects	833	2,390
Italy Partnership	-	43,261
Riverton Partnership	-	38,263
Philippine Partnership	46,088	7,056
Christian Peacemaker Teams	236,694	252,515
North American Vietnamese Mennonite Fellowship	31,524	22,691
Company of 1000	49,264	52,015
Mennonite Voluntary Service Adventure	2,338	-
Kherson	8,400	-
Learning tours	40,740	-
Der Bote	148,832	145,744
Mennonite Heritage Centre archives	83,770	67,854
Mennonite Heritage Centre gallery	80,368	62,116
	\$ 770,440	\$ 790,099

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Contributions to Related Organizations

Year ended January 31, 2007, with comparative figures for 2006

	2007	2006
Canadian Mennonite University	\$ 2,109	\$ 17,254
Mennonite Church USA	40,172	56,635
Mennonite Mission Network	39,774	61,282
Associated Mennonite Bible Seminary	80,999	84,860
Mennonite Publishing Network	32,640	36,247
Meseretes Kristos College	197,765	50,970
Eastern Mennonite Missions	21,000	67,500
	\$ 414,459	\$ 374,748

Bylaws–Preamble

1 The bylaw revisions proposed here are intended to accomplish four objectives.

2
3 1. Allow area church only membership (ACOM)

4
5 At Edmonton 2006, the General Board served notice that if the delegates approved the
6 statements regarding area church only membership, the definition of “constituent
7 congregation” in the bylaws would need to be amended to allow for this category of
8 membership. As the delegates did approve the statements, an expanded definition of
9 “constituent congregation” and adjustments to the definition of area church are included
10 in the proposed amendments (page 93, lines 10-12 and 22-23).

11
12 2. Update language to reflect current usage.

13
14 “Area conference(s)” is changed to “area church(es)” and “mission statement” is changed
15 to “Vision Statement and Identity and Purpose Statement” throughout the bylaws.

16
17 3. Clarify responsibility for relating to Canadian Mennonite University (CMU),
18 Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) and Mennonite Publishing
19 Network (MPN)

20
21 The General Board has assigned responsibility for relating to CMU, AMBS and MPN to
22 the Christian Formation Council, as these organizations are most closely related to
23 Formation Council’s mandate. The General Board is proposing amendments to the
24 bylaws to formalize this shift of responsibility (see deleted section on page 98 after line
25 22 and new wording on page 99, line 44). Formation Council would then be responsible
26 for appointing representatives to CMU, AMBS and MPN (as described on page 101, line
27 48).

28
29 4. Increase flexibility regarding appointments to Mennonite World Conference (MWC)

30
31 Currently, the delegate assembly elects one member from each of General Board,
32 Witness Council and Formation Council to serve as MC Canada’s representatives to
33 MWC’s General Council. We have found that many other churches send their General
34 Secretary or Moderator as representatives, who wish to relate to their peers in other
35 national churches. We have also found that the agenda of the General Council or other
36 meetings scheduled around it often require MC Canada staff to be present in addition to
37 elected representatives, which is expensive. Allowing General Board to appoint our
38 representatives to MWC (see page 98, line 19, and changes on page 101, lines 3-4 and
39 lines 38-39) provides flexibility to ensure that our MWC appointments represent MC
40 Canada most appropriately and cost-effectively.

41
42 Pam Peters-Pries
43 Executive Secretary
44 Support Services

general
formation
witness
support services
finance
discernment



Bylaws–Revisions –Table of Contents

I Definitions

- 1 Definition of Terms

II Membership

- 2 Eligibility for Membership
3 Rights and Privileges of Members
4 Expectations of Members
5 Provisional Membership
6 Removal of Members

III Delegate Assemblies

- 7 Representation at Delegate Assemblies
8 Duties and powers of Voting Delegates
9 Delegate Assemblies
10 Notice of Delegate Assemblies
11 Voting at Delegate Assemblies

IV Nominations, Elections, Terms of Office and Vacancies

- 12 Qualifications for Elected Office
13 Nominating Committee
14 Election Procedures
15 Terms of office
16 Vacancies

V General Board

- 17 Composition of the General Board
18 Duties and Powers of the General Board
19 General Board Governance

VI Officers

- 20 Officers
21 Duties of the officers

general

formation

witness

support services

finance

discernment

VII General Secretary

- 22 Appointment
23 Duties of the General Secretary

VIII Executive Committee

- 24 Composition of the Executive Committee
25 Duties and Powers of the Executive Committee

IX Joint Executive Committee

- 26 Composition of the Joint Executive Committee
27 Duties of the Joint Executive Committee

X Financial Policy and Audit Committee

- 28 Composition of the Financial Policy and Audit Committee
29 Duties of the Financial Policy and Audit Committee

XI Faith and Life Committee

- 30 Composition of the Faith and Life Committee
31 Duties of the Faith and Life Committee

XII Ministries of MC Canada

- 32 Christian Witness Council
33 Christian Formation Council
34 Support Services Council
35 Council Governance

XIII Moderators, Secretaries and Conference Ministers Meeting

- 36 Composition of the Moderators, Secretaries and Conference Ministers meeting
37 Functions of the Moderators Secretaries and Conference Ministers meeting

XIV Operational Matters

- 38 Fiscal year
39 Corporate seal
40 Indemnities

XV Amendments of Bylaws

- 41 Amendments to the bylaws
42 Coming into force



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31

PART I - DEFINITIONS

32
33
34
35
36
37

Definition of Terms

1 In these bylaws:

- (a) **“Act”** means *The Act of Incorporation of the Conference of Mennonites in Canada* as amended by *An Act to amend the Act of incorporation of the Conference of Mennonites in Canada*.
- (b) **“area church”** means a body of congregations that have been accepted to membership in the area church, visibly grouped in a region of Canada not necessarily bounded by provincial borders;
- (c) **“congregation”** means a body of persons who have responded to the call of Christ in repentance and in faith, who symbolize their unity through the practice of baptism and communion, and who are visibly grouped for the express purpose of implementing their obedience to Christ as head of the church;
- (d) **“congregational member”** means a person who is a member of a constituent congregation;
- (e) **“constituent congregation”** means a congregation which is a member of an area church and of Mennonite Church Canada;
- (f) **“MC Canada”** means Mennonite Church Canada; and
- (g) **“MC USA”** means Mennonite Church USA.

Deleted: conference

Deleted: constituent

Deleted: conference

38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45

PART II - MEMBERSHIP

46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56

Eligibility for Membership

- 2 (1) An area church in Canada which accepts the *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective*, supports the *Vision Statement and Identity and Purpose Statement* of MC Canada and accepts these bylaws is eligible to become a member of MC Canada.
- (2) Any area church that wishes to become a member of MC Canada is invited to submit a request in writing to the General Secretary, who will submit it to the General Board which will, in turn, present the request and a recommendation to a delegate assembly.
- (3) A constituent congregation is a member of MC Canada as long as the area church to which it belongs is a member of MC Canada.

Deleted: conference

Deleted: mission statement

Deleted: conference

Deleted: conference

Rights and Privileges of Members

- 3 (1) Membership in MC Canada entitles area churches to:
- (a) send delegates to a delegate assembly, as specified elsewhere in these bylaws, with the right to vote;
 - (b) representation on the General Board, as specified elsewhere in these bylaws; and
 - (c) participate in programs and receive services from MC Canada.
- (2) Membership in MC Canada entitles constituent congregations to:
- (a) send delegates to a delegate assembly, as specified elsewhere in these bylaws, with the right to vote;

Deleted: conferences

- 1 (b) have their congregational members serve on the General Board or stand for
2 election to any elected positions except as otherwise provided in these bylaws;
3 and
4 (c) participate in programs and receive services from MC Canada.
5

6 **Expectations of Members**

- 7 **4** Area churches and constituent congregations are expected to: Deleted: conferences
8 (a) give faithful attention to the Scriptures;
9 (b) accept the *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective*;
10 (c) uphold statements of Christian faith and life made by MC Canada from time to time;
11 (d) respond to the invitation to become engaged in mission and service;
12 (e) participate in the church's life and mission through generous contributions of time
13 and personal resources all in commitment to Jesus Christ in response to the grace of
14 God and in loving service to the church in which the Holy Spirit lives and works; and
15 (f) assume all duties as defined in these bylaws.
16

17 **Provisional Membership**

- 18 **5** (1) Provisional membership is open to any area church which: Deleted: conference
19 (a) meets the eligibility requirement in bylaw 2(1);
20 (b) is not ready for full membership; but which
21 (c) wishes to evaluate the meaning of full membership for itself.
22
23 (2) Provisional membership:
24 (a) may be requested in writing to the General Secretary, and the process set out
25 in bylaw 2(2) shall apply;
26 (b) is restricted to a maximum of five years;
27 (c) carries with it the expectations listed in bylaw 4;
28 (d) provides all the rights and privileges of membership listed in bylaw 3 except
29 that:
30 (i) their delegates are not entitled to vote at delegate assemblies;
31 (ii) their congregational members may be elected to a Council, but may not
32 serve on the General Board; and
33 (iii) participation in programs and services from MC Canada, and the costs
34 associated with them, will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis.
35
36 (3) A constituent congregation is a provisional member of MC Canada as long as the
37 area church to which it belongs is a provisional member of MC Canada. Deleted: conference
38

39 **Removal of Members**

- 40 **6** An area church may be removed from membership in MC Canada only on the Deleted: conference
41 recommendation of the General Board, and such recommendation may only be made after
42 the General Board has followed procedures defined in *Guidelines for Building Faithful*
43 *Relationships in the Church* (1998) and *Agreeing and Disagreeing in Love* (1995) to try to
44 resolve matters with the area church in a way that would avert the need for such a Deleted: conference
45 recommendation.
46
47

48 **PART III - DELEGATE ASSEMBLIES**

49 **Representation at Delegate Assemblies**

- 50 **7** (1) Area churches and constituent congregations may be represented at delegate Deleted: conferences
51 assemblies as follows:
52 (a) delegates appointed by constituent congregations:
53 (i) in the ratio of one delegate for every 50 congregational members or a
54 portion thereof; but
55 (ii) not less than two per constituent congregation; and
56

- 1
- 2 | (b) delegates appointed by the area churches: Deleted: conferences
- 3 | (i) in the ratio of one delegate for every 1,000 congregational members, or
- 4 | portion thereof, of their constituent congregations; but
- 5 | (ii) not less than six and not more than 12 delegates per area church. Deleted: conference
- 6 |
- 7 | (2) Each delegate may represent only one of either an area church, or a constituent Deleted: conference
- 8 | congregation, but not both simultaneously.
- 9 |
- 10 | (3) Delegates must be congregational members. There are no other restrictions on who
- 11 | may be a delegate.
- 12 |

Duties and Powers of Voting Delegates

- 13 | **8** The delegates entitled to vote and present at a delegate assembly shall:
- 14 | (a) have the authority to act on behalf of MC Canada;
- 15 | (b) discern MC Canada's participation in God's work as reflected in its Vision Statement Deleted: mission statement
- 16 | and Identity and Purpose Statement;
- 17 | (c) debate issues facing the church and, from time to time, issue statements, including,
- 18 | but not limited to, statements pertaining to faith and life, position statements, and
- 19 | statements to governments;
- 20 | (d) review the work and ministry of MC Canada; Deleted: and of its mission agencies
- 21 | (e) approve the budgets of MC Canada;
- 22 | (f) receive the General Board's recommendation on the appointment of an auditor to
- 23 | hold office until the close of the next regular delegate assembly, and accept or reject
- 24 | such recommendation;
- 25 | (g) consider and accept or reject the financial statements of MC Canada and the
- 26 | auditor's report;
- 27 | (h) receive the General Board's recommendation and accept, reject or remove area
- 28 | churches as members or as provisional members; Deleted: conferences
- 29 | (i) elect MC Canada's officers, members of the Councils and members of the
- 30 | Nominating Committee; and
- 31 | (j) make the bylaws of MC Canada, amend bylaws as deemed appropriate, and monitor
- 32 | adherence to those bylaws.
- 33 |
- 34 |

Delegate Assemblies

- 35 | **9** (1) Regular delegate assemblies shall be held:
- 36 | (a) annually, beginning normally during the first two weeks of July,
- 37 | (b) at a place determined by the General Board.
- 38 |
- 39 | (2) Elections shall be held at regular delegate assemblies except where the General
- 40 | Board determines that it is necessary to hold elections at a special delegate
- 41 | assembly. The General Board and all Councils shall provide written reports of their
- 42 | activities, plans and relevant financial statements for consideration by delegates at
- 43 | regular delegate assemblies.
- 44 |
- 45 | (3) A special delegate assembly may be called from time to time by the General Board at
- 46 | a time and place it may determine.
- 47 |
- 48 |

Notice of Delegate Assemblies

- 49 | **10** (1) The date and place of the next regular delegate assembly shall be announced at the
- 50 | conclusion of each regular delegate assembly.
- 51 |
- 52 | (2) Notice of a special delegate assembly shall be given to area churches and to Deleted: conferences
- 53 | constituent congregations not less than 21 days in advance.
- 54 |
- 55 |

1 | **Voting at Delegate Assemblies**

- 2 | **11** (1) The quorum for a delegate assembly shall be one half the total number eligible voting
3 | delegates from the area ~~churches plus 200 voting delegates from constituent~~
4 | congregations. Deleted: conferences
- 5 |
- 6 | (2) The business of a delegate assembly may be conducted:
- 7 | (a) by consensus without a formal vote;
- 8 | (b) by a show of hands at the discretion of the chair or on the request of a voting
9 | delegate; or
- 10 | (c) by ballot vote when directed by the chair, or when a motion to require a ballot
11 | vote is passed by a majority of votes cast on such motion.
- 12 |
- 13 | (3) Unless otherwise provided in these bylaws, or if a motion to require a larger number
14 | is passed by a majority of votes cast on such motion, a simple majority of the votes
15 | cast is sufficient to carry a resolution.
- 16 |
- 17 | (4) In the event of a ballot vote, the votes shall be counted by tellers who have been
18 | appointed in advance.
- 19 |

20 | **PART IV – NOMINATIONS, ELECTIONS, TERMS OF OFFICE AND VACANCIES**

21 | **Qualifications for Elected Positions**

- 22 |
- 23 | **12** (1) Each person nominated for an elected position must be a congregational member.
24 | However, congregational members of provisional constituent congregations are not
25 | eligible for election to the General Board.
- 26 |
- 27 | (2) In the event that an elected person ceases to be a congregational member, that
28 | person's term shall be deemed to have expired at that point.
- 29 |
- 30 | (3) No person may hold more than one elected position at the same time. Where a
31 | person who holds an elected position is elected to another elected position, that
32 | person is deemed to have resigned from the previously held elected position.
- 33 |
- 34 | (4) Staff of MC Canada are not eligible for election to an elected position in MC Canada.
- 35 |
- 36 | (5) Any question of eligibility for election shall be resolved by the General Board.
- 37 |

38 | **Nominating Committee**

- 39 |
- 40 | **13** (1) Each area ~~church~~ shall nominate one person to the Nominating Committee for
41 | election at a delegate assembly. Deleted: conference
- 42 |
- 43 | (2) The Nominating Committee shall:
- 44 | (a) in advance of a delegate assembly where elections are to be held, use its best
45 | efforts to prepare a slate of nominees consisting of one nominee for each
46 | elected position that needs to be filled;
- 47 | (b) recommend, upon the request of a Council, persons to serve on its
48 | committees; and
- 49 | (c) on request, suggest to the General Secretary names of candidates for vacant
50 | staff positions.
- 51 |

52 | **Election Procedures**

- 53 | **14** (1) The Nominating Committee will receive further nominations at a delegate assembly if:
54 | (a) it is endorsed by five voting delegates;
- 55 | (b) the nominee has agreed to stand for the elected position; and
- 56 | (c) it is presented to the Nominating Committee at least 24 hours before the

1 scheduled election.

- 2
- 3 (2) Twenty-four hours before the scheduled election, the Nominating Committee shall
- 4 present its slate of nominees, including those nominated in accordance with 14(1)
- 5 above, to the delegate assembly.
- 6
- 7 (3) Where only one person has been nominated for a given elected position, that
- 8 nominee shall be declared elected by acclamation.
- 9
- 10 (4) Where multiple nominations have been received for any elected position, there shall
- 11 be a ballot vote.
- 12

13 **Terms of Office**

14 **15** (1) The terms of office:

- 15 (a) for the officers and the General Board members at large;
- 16 (i) shall be two years; and
- 17 (ii) they shall be eligible to serve for up to three consecutive terms;
- 18

19 (b) for all other members of the Councils:

- 20 (i) shall be three years; and
- 21 (ii) they shall be eligible to serve for up to three consecutive terms.
- 22

23 (2) A person's term shall begin at the end of the delegate assembly at which the person

24 was elected.

25 **Vacancies**

26 **16** (1) Where a vacancy occurs in any elected position between regular delegate

27 assemblies, such vacancy may be filled by the General Board, at its discretion, until

28 the next regular delegate assembly.

29 (2) Where a person has been appointed to fill a vacancy, the time spent completing that

30 vacant term of office shall not be considered as a portion of any succeeding term.

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38 **PART V - GENERAL BOARD**

39 **Composition of the General Board**

40 **17** The General Board shall consist of:

- 41 (a) the officers;
- 42 (b) the moderator or a designate of each area church;
- 43 (c) the chair of the Faith and Life Committee
- 44 (d) the following from the Councils:
 - 45 (i) the chair of the Christian Witness Council and one other named by the Council;
 - 46 (ii) the chair of the Christian Formation Council and one other named by the
 - 47 Council; and
 - 48 (iii) the chair of the Support Services Council; and
- 49 (e) three members at large appointed by the General Board and confirmed by the
- 50 delegate assembly.

51 **Duties and Powers of the General Board**

52 **18** The General Board shall:

- 53 (a) act on behalf of MC Canada between delegate assemblies;
- 54 (b) act as the legal representative of MC Canada, authorize such of its officers to sign
- 55 contracts, cheques and other documents on behalf of MC Canada as the General
- 56 Board may consider advisable, and prescribe the limits, if any, of such authority;

Deleted: two

Deleted: not serving as appointees to the General Council of Mennonite World Conference

Deleted: <#>for members of the Christian Witness and Christian Formation Councils and General Board who serve as appointees to the General Council of Mennonite World Conference:¶

(i) . shall be six years; and¶

(ii) . they shall not be eligible to serve consecutive terms; ¶

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

- (c) report to, and be accountable to, its members at delegate assemblies;
- (d) between delegate assemblies, continue the process of discerning MC Canada's participation in God's work as reflected in the Vision Statement and Identity and Purpose Statement;
- (e) lead MC Canada in developing its identity and vision;
- (f) create forums for interaction among the leaders of the area churches;
- (g) direct and coordinate the work of the Councils;
- (h) review financial statements and direct the preparation of budgets;
- (i) make recommendations at regular delegate assemblies on the appointment of auditors for MC Canada;
- (j) appoint the General Secretary;
- (k) at its discretion, fill vacancies in elected positions that occur between regular delegate assemblies;
- (l) process issues of membership in MC Canada and make recommendations thereon at regular or special delegate assemblies;
- (m) foster relationships with other church bodies, including appointments as appropriate to:
 - (i) MC USA;
 - (ii) Mennonite World Conference;
 - (iii) other Mennonite church bodies;
 - (iv) Canadian Council of Churches; and
 - (v) Evangelical Fellowship of Canada;
- (n) do any other thing which is likely to support and promote the mission of MC Canada.

Deleted: Identity and Purpose Statement

Deleted: conferences

Deleted: <#>in partnership with the Mennonite Brethren Church of Manitoba and the Friends of Menno Simons College, oversee the work of Canadian Mennonite University; ¶ <#>in partnership with MC USA, oversee the work of Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary; and¶

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

General Board Governance

19 The General Board shall formulate and adopt rules of procedure and governance under which it shall operate.

PART VI - OFFICERS

Officers

- 20 (1) The officers of MC Canada shall be the:
- (a) Moderator;
 - (b) Assistant Moderator;
 - (c) Secretary; and
 - (d) Treasurer.
- (2) The officers shall be elected at a regular delegate assembly.

Duties of the Officers

- 21 (1) The Moderator shall:
- (a) preside at all delegate assemblies;
 - (b) chair all meetings of the General Board and the Executive Committee; and
 - (c) act as the official representative of and spokesperson for MC Canada.
- (2) The Assistant Moderator shall:
- (a) assume the duties of the Moderator:
 - (i) in the absence or incapacity of the Moderator; or
 - (ii) at the request of the Moderator or of the Executive Committee.
- (3) The Secretary shall be responsible for recording all minutes of delegate assemblies and meetings of the General Board and the Executive Committee.
- (4) The Treasurer shall oversee the Financial Policy and Audit Committee established by the General Board.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56

PART VII – GENERAL SECRETARY

Appointment

22 The General Secretary shall be appointed by the General Board.

Duties of the General Secretary

23 The General Secretary shall:

- (a) coordinate the total program of MC Canada;
- (b) hire and supervise the MC Canada staff;
- (c) participate, without a vote, in meetings of the Executive Committee and the General Board;
- (d) receive and record the credentials of all voting delegates prior to each delegate assembly; and
- (e) publish proceedings of each delegate assembly.

PART VIII - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Composition of the Executive Committee

24 The Executive Committee shall consist of:

- (a) the officers; and
- (b) one member at large of the General Board appointed by the General Board from among its members.

Duties and Powers of the Executive Committee

25 The Executive Committee shall:

- (a) act on behalf of the General Board between its meetings;
- (b) report its activities to the General Board; and
- (c) between meetings of the General Board, continue the process of discerning MC Canada's participation in God's work as contained in the Vision Statement and Identity and Purpose Statement.

Deleted: Identity and Purpose Statement

PART IX - JOINT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Composition of the Joint Executive Committee

26 The Joint Executive Committee shall consist of:

- (a) the Executive Committee of MC Canada; and
- (b) the Executive Committee of MC USA.

Duties of the Joint Executive Committee

27 The Joint Executive Committee shall meet at least annually to:

- (a) foster relationships between MC Canada and MC USA; and
- (b) foster effective cooperation regarding binational partnership activities.

Deleted: oversee binational partnership programs

PART X – FINANCIAL POLICY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Composition of the Financial Policy and Audit Committee

28 The Financial Policy and Audit Committee shall consist of 3 people, namely:

- (a) the Treasurer, as chairperson; and
- (b) two other persons appointed by the General Board whose term shall be three years; and who shall be eligible to serve for up to three consecutive terms.

Duties of the Financial Policy and Audit Committee

29 The Financial Policy and Audit Committee shall meet in person at least once annually and otherwise by teleconferencing as required to:

- (a) Review the financial statements (YTD) prepared by the Director of Finance and report to the General Board.
- (b) Recommend financial policies and procedures as needed.
- (c) Recommend investment policies and procedures as needed.
- (d) Ensure that MC Canada has implemented appropriate systems to identify, monitor and mitigate significant business risks.
- (e) Monitor the review of senior management's expense claims.
- (f) Provide initial recommendations regarding the budgeting process for the upcoming year and review proposed budgets before submission to the General Board.
- (g) Act as an audit committee with the following responsibilities:
 - (i.) Review and recommend the appointment of the external auditor.
 - (ii.) Review annually the audit plan and fees presented by the external auditor.
 - (iii.) Review the annual audited financial statements prior to submission to the General Board for their approval.
 - (iv.) In camera meeting with the auditor.
 - (v.) Review and report to the General Board the results of the external auditor's annual audit including the management letter and significant issues encountered during the audit and how they were resolved.
 - (vi.) Review with management and the external auditors MC Canada's systems of internal control to ensure compliance with legal, ethical, regulatory and financial reporting requirements and report to the General Board as required.

XI FAITH AND LIFE COMMITTEE

Composition of the Faith and Life Committee

- 30** The Faith and Life Committee shall consist of 5 people, namely:
- (a) a chairperson, who will be a member of the General Board, elected at a regular delegate assembly;
 - (b) two additional persons elected at a regular delegate assembly;
 - (c) one additional person appointed by the General Board
 - (d) one staff member appointed by the General Secretary

Duties of the Faith and Life Committee

- 31** The Faith and Life Committee shall meet at least three times annually, and one of the meetings will be together with a Reference Council which shall include of the Moderators, Secretaries and Conference Ministers and faculty members appointed by our higher education institutions, to:
- (a) Attend to the interface among Scripture, the *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective* and our identity as MC Canada.
 - (b) Give leadership to Mennonite Church Canada in discerning God's will on issues of theology, ethics, polity and practice.
 - (c) Work cooperatively with educational institutions and other church agencies to facilitate, create and distribute resources for study by and guidance for the church.

PART XII - MINISTRIES OF MC CANADA

Christian Witness Council

- 32** (1) The core activities of the Christian Witness Council shall focus on carrying out mission work together with area churches and their constituent congregations including, but not limited to:
- (a) evangelism and church planting;
 - (b) international missions;
 - (c) multicultural ministries;
 - (d) Native ministries;
 - (e) peace and justice advocacy; and
 - (f) service ministries.

Deleted: conferences

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56

- (2) The Christian Witness Council shall consist of 10 people, namely:
 - (a) a chairperson elected at a regular delegate assembly;
 - (b) ~~nine other persons elected at a regular delegate assembly.~~
- (3) The Christian Witness Council shall have authority to:
 - (a) select any other officers from among its members that it deems desirable;
 - (b) hire staff to oversee its programs;
 - (c) modify the organization of its programs to adapt to the needs of MC Canada and the availability of resources;
 - (d) oversee its programs, staff and budgets;
 - (e) delegate parts of its authority to various committees, and
 - (f) appoint representatives to related organizations.
- (4) The Christian Witness Council shall prepare financial budgets for its own programs, with assistance from the Financial Policy and Audit Committee, and reports for presentation at regular delegate assemblies, covering their activities since the last regular delegate assembly, and shall prepare and provide to the General Board such other statements or reports as the General Board may request.
- (5) The Christian Witness Council shall, on behalf of MC Canada, relate to:
 - (a) Mennonite Central Committee;
 - (b) Canadian Women in Mission;
 - (c) Christian Peacemaker Teams; and
 - (d) any other organization or group assigned to it by the General Board.

Deleted: one member elected at a regular delegate assembly to serve as an appointee to the General Council of Mennonite World Conference; and¶
... (c) eight

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Christian Formation Council

- 33 (1) The core activities of the Christian Formation Council shall focus on providing leadership and resources to enable area ~~churches and their constituent~~ congregations to promote the Christian formation of their members, including, but not limited to:
 - (a) congregational and ministerial leadership;
 - (b) youth and young adult ministry;
 - (c) Christian education and nurture; and
 - (d) resources and publishing.
- (2) The Christian Formation Council shall consist of 10 persons, namely:
 - (a) a chairperson elected at a regular delegate assembly;
 - (b) ~~nine other persons elected at a regular delegate assembly.~~
- (3) The Christian Formation Council shall have authority to:
 - (a) select any other officers from among its members that it deems desirable;
 - (b) hire staff to oversee its programs;
 - (c) modify the organization of its programs to adapt to the needs of MC Canada and the availability of resources;
 - (d) oversee its programs, staff and budgets;
 - (e) delegate parts of its authority to various committees, and
 - (f) appoint representatives to related organizations.
- (4) The Christian Formation Council shall prepare financial budgets for its own program, with assistance from the Financial Policy and Audit Committee, and reports for presentation at regular delegate assemblies, covering their activities since the last regular delegate assembly, and shall prepare and provide to the General Board such other statements or reports as the General Board may request.
- (5) The Christian Formation Council shall, on behalf of MC Canada, relate to:

Deleted: conferences

Deleted: <#>one member elected at a regular delegate assembly to serve as an appointee to the General Council of Mennonite World Conference; and¶

Deleted: c

Deleted: eight

- (a) Mennonite Publishing Network;
- (b) Mennonite Camping Association;
- (c) Elementary, secondary and post-secondary schools related to MC Canada;
and
- (d) any other organization or group assigned to it by the General Board.

Support Services Council

- 34 (1) The activities of the Support Services Council shall focus on structures and staff to provide support services to MC Canada including, but not limited to:
- (a) planning delegate assemblies;
 - (b) communication;
 - (c) information technology;
 - (d) human resources management;
 - (e) pension plan;
 - (f) property management; and
 - (g) development and constituency relations.
- (2) The Support Services Council shall consist of six persons, namely:
- (a) a chairperson elected at a regular delegate assembly;
 - (b) and five other persons elected at a regular delegate assembly.
- (3) The Support Services Council shall have authority to:
- (a) select any other officers from among its members that it deems desirable;
 - (b) hire staff to oversee its activities;
 - (c) modify the organization of its programs to adapt to the needs of MC Canada and the availability of resources;
 - (d) oversee its programs, staff and budgets;
 - (e) delegate parts of its authority to various committees; and
 - (f) appoint representatives to related organizations.
- (4) The Support Services Council shall prepare financial budgets for its own program, with assistance from the Financial Policy and Audit Committee, and reports for presentation at regular delegate assemblies, covering their activities since the last regular delegate assembly, and shall prepare and provide to the General Board such other statements or reports as the General Board may request.
- (5) The Support Services Council shall, on behalf of MC Canada, relate to:
- (a) Mennonite Foundation of Canada;
 - (b) Canadian Mennonite Publishing Service; and
 - (c) any other organization or group assigned to it by the General Board.

Council Governance

- 35 Each Council shall formulate and adopt rules of procedure and governance under which the Council shall operate.

PART XIII – MODERATORS, SECRETARIES AND CONFERENCE MINISTERS MEETING

Membership

- 36 The members of the Moderators, Secretaries and Conference Ministers meeting shall consist of the moderator or a designate, leading staff member and conference minister of Mennonite Church Canada and each of its member area churches.

Formatted: Indent: First line: 0.25"

Deleted: conferences

Functions

- 37 The Moderators, Secretaries and Conference Ministers will meet annually to:
- (a) Report to each other the ministries and state of health of the national church body and its

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56

- area ~~churches~~.
- (b) Serve, together with others, as a reference council for the Faith and Life Committee.
- (c) Discuss issues of common concern in order to provide mutual counsel and support and to seek common approaches where appropriate.
- (d) Develop relationships of trust, respect and mutual subordination.
- (e) Other functions that may be helpful to building up the unity and faithfulness of the church.

Deleted: conferences

PART XIV – OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Fiscal Year

38 MC Canada’s fiscal year shall end on the 31st day of January in each year.

Corporate Seal

- 39** The Corporate seal shall:
- (a) have inscribed thereon *Mennonite Church Canada*; and
 - (b) be affixed to such signed documents as the General Board considers necessary or advisable.

Indemnities

- 40** Every officer, member of the General Board and member of a Council of MC Canada, and their heirs, executors and administrators shall at all times be indemnified and saved harmless, out of the funds of MC Canada, from and against
- (a) all costs, charges and expenses whatsoever which such officer or member sustains or incurs as a result of any claim, demand or proceedings made or brought against him or her for anything done, or omitted or permitted to be done, in the course of carrying out his or her responsibilities as an officer or member, except for any costs, charges and expenses sustained or incurred by the officer or member because of the wilful neglect of such officer or member; and
 - (b) all reasonable costs, charges and expenses incurred by such officer or member in the course of carrying out his or her responsibilities as an officer or member.

PART XV – AMENDMENTS OF BYLAWS

Amendments to the bylaws

- 41** (1) These bylaws may be amended at any regular or special delegate assembly; provided that the proposed amendments have been sent to the member area ~~churches~~ and their constituent congregations at least two months in advance.
- (2) In order to pass, bylaw amendments require a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.

Deleted: conferences

Coming into force

- 42** (1) These bylaws come into force at the conclusion of the delegate assembly at which they are adopted.
- (2) Any subsequent amendments to these bylaws come into force at the conclusion of the delegate assembly at which they are adopted.

Approved:
July 14, 2001
Amended:
July 6, 2002
Amended:
July 9, 2005
Amended:
July 2007

Assembly 2007 Agenda (subject to change)

Tuesday July 3, 2007

830am to 415pm	Pre-Assembly Gathering at Eben-Ezer Mennonite Church "Putting Your Money Where Your Faith Is"
130pm	Assembly registration begins at MEI
530pm	Supper
700pm	Worship
900pm	Ice cream social

Wednesday July 4, 2007

845am	Worship
930am	Break
1000am	Discernment - Call to order Opening matters Introductions including special guests and assembly officers General Board Report Discernment topic - Painting a picture of the MC Canada system (led by General Board) Announcements
1200pm	Lunch
115pm	Seminars
230pm	Break
300pm	Discernment - Call to order Presentation of the slate of nominees Finance report Discernment topic - Young adults and the church (led by Formation Council) Listening Committee daily report Announcements
530pm	Supper
700pm	Worship

Thursday July 5, 2007

845am	Worship
930am	Break
1000am	Discernment - Call to order Discernment topic - Militarization of Canada (led by Witness Council) Nominations close Listening Committee daily report Announcements
1200pm	Lunch
115pm	Tours
530pm	BBQ and activities at Trinity Western University

Friday July 6, 2007

845am	Worship
930am	Break
1000am	Discernment - Call to order Discernment topic - Creation care (led by Faith and Life Committee) Presentation of by-law changes Announcements
1200pm	Lunch
115pm	Seminars
230pm	Break
300pm	Discernment - Call to order Finance matters (approve budget, appoint auditor) Elections Resolutions Committee report Listening Committee final report Invitation to Assembly 2008 Announcements
530pm	Supper
700pm	Closing worship service including commissioning and communion

Preliminary Schedule (subject to change)

Start	Tuesday - July 3	Wednesday - July 4	Thursday - July 5	Friday - July 6
8:45 AM	Putting Your Money Where Your Faith Is 8:30 am - 4:15 pm Eben-Ezer Mennonite Church	Worship		
9:30 AM		BREAK		
10:00 AM		Discernment (Small selection of seminars for non-delegates)		
12:00 noon		LUNCH		
1:15 PM	Assembly Registration begins at 1:30 PM MEI	Seminars	Tours	Seminars
2:30 PM		BREAK		BREAK
3:00 PM		Discernment		Discernment
5:30 PM	SUPPER	SUPPER	BBQ and Activities at Trinity Western University	SUPPER
7:00 PM	Worship	Worship		Worship
9:00 PM	Ice Cream Social			



600 Shaftesbury Blvd
 Winnipeg MB R3P 0M4
 Toll free: 1-866-888-6785
 T: 204-888-6781
 F: 204-831-5675
 E: office@mennonitechurch.ca
 W: www.mennonitechurch.ca