

**2022 Report Book  
Volume 65**

**MCM Gathering 2023**

# **Mennonite Church Manitoba**

**March 3&4, 2023**

**Douglas Mennonite Church, Winnipeg**

February 17, 2023

# Douglas Mennonite Church

Douglas Mennonite Church is a daughter church of the Springfield Heights Mennonite Church. In the 1970s Springfield Heights bought a lot at the corner of Douglas and Rothesay in North Kildonan with the intention of planting another church. In 1979 a new sanctuary was built and Franz Wiebe was installed as the first minister of Douglas Mennonite Church. It had been previously agreed that once Douglas had 175 members it would become a congregation independent of Springfield Heights Mennonite Church. This happened in 1980.

At this time Springfield Heights was a largely German speaking congregation. From the beginning it was intended that English would be used at Douglas more often than it was at Springfield Heights but during the 1980s, Douglas Mennonite Church was still a very bilingual congregation. A single worship hour combined both German and English sermons. By the mid 1980s things had begun to change and in 1989 the single bilingual service was split into separate English and German components which continued until 2002

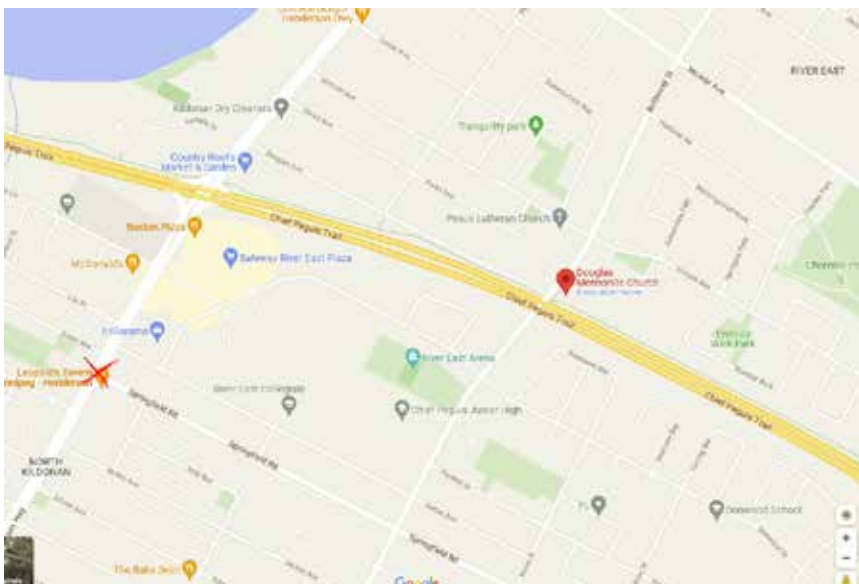
Within a few years of building the sanctuary, Douglas was experiencing a space shortage, especially of Sunday School classrooms. After much discussion an addition housing a gym, Sunday School classrooms and offices, was added in 1995.

Currently the pastoral staff consists of Don Rempel Boschman, the leading minister, Dale Friesen the youth minister, and Tobia Veith the children's ministry leader.

In different seasons, different ministries flourish at Douglas. Currently one ministry which is flourishing at Douglas is refugee sponsorship. Since 2012, Douglas has sponsored 19 people from Syria to come to Canada and co-sponsored another 7 people who already had family members in Winnipeg. We are currently hoping to sponsor at least two more families in 2023.

## Map

Douglas Mennonite Church  
1517 Rothesay Ave, Winnipeg, MB



Note: Rothesay is not accessible from Chief Peguis Trail.

The best access from Henderson Hwy is either Springfield Rd or Gilmore Ave.

# Acronyms

AMBS	Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary	MBBS	Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary
CCBM	Church Community Building Ministry	MC Canada	Mennonite Church Canada
CMU	Canadian Mennonite University	MCCMB	Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba
CwM	Camps with Meaning	MCM	Mennonite Church Manitoba
DVBS	Daily Vacation Bible School	MCM Gathering	Mennonite Church Manitoba Gathering
EMC	Evangelical Mennonite Church	MEDA	Mennonite Economic Development Association
EMG	Executive Ministers Group (Mennonite Church Canada)	MDS	Mennonite Disaster Service
EMMC	Evangelical Mennonite Mission Conference	MDS MB	Mennonite Disaster Service Manitoba
JC	Joint Council (Mennonite Church Canada)	MLC	Ministerial Leadership Committee
LM	Leadership Ministries	MMC	Manitoba Multifaith Council
MBCM	Mennonite Brethren Church of Manitoba	VS	Voluntary Service
		YMF	Youth Ministry Fellowship

## Health Note

Covid, RSV, and other airborne illnesses are still prevalent in Manitoba. Please stay home if you are sick with symptoms such as an unusual cough, sneezing, or fever. You are welcome to wear a mask during Gathering, but masks are not required.

## Giving Opportunities at Gathering

We will be selling Mennonite World Conference bags for \$10 each, with all proceeds going toward MWC. During the Friday evening worship service, a special offering will be taken to support both the inner-city ministry of Little Flowers Community and the upcoming youth and young adult climate gathering April 21-23 called "Living Hope."

## Gathering Video

Gathering 2023 will not be livestreamed. Video of staff reports and excerpts from plenary sessions will be made available on the MCM website after the Gathering.

## MCM Update

The weekly MCM Update is the best way to stay on top of MCM and MC Canada news, updates, and bulletin announcements. Subscribe to this fount of info at the bottom of this page: [www.mennochurch.mb.ca/contact](http://www.mennochurch.mb.ca/contact)



# Table of Contents

76th Annual Gathering Program . . . . .	5
Foreword . . . . .	6
Vision and Mission Statement . . . . .	7
From the Moderator . . . . .	8
Executive Minister's Report . . . . .	9
<b>Camps with Meaning</b>	
Director of Camps with Meaning Report. . . . .	11
Camp Koinonia . . . . .	13
Summer Camping Ministry . . . . .	14
<b>Leadership Ministries</b>	
Co-Director of Leadership Ministries Report . . . . .	16
Funds . . . . .	18
<b>Congregational Ministries</b>	
Director of Congregational Ministries Report . . . . .	19
Faith and Life Choirs . . . . .	21
Circle of God's People . . . . .	23
Voices Together. . . . .	23
<b>Mission Ministries</b> . . . . .	24
<b>Working Groups</b>	
Palestine-Israel Network . . . . .	26
Woven . . . . .	27
Manitoba Mennonite Coalition for Indigenous Solidarity . . . . .	28
Climate Action Working Group . . . . .	29
<b>Minutes</b>	
MCM Annual Gathering, March 2021 . . . . .	30
<b>MCM Representatives to Related Organizations</b> . . . . .	35
<b>Committees</b> . . . . .	37
<b>Nominations Slate</b> . . . . .	38
<b>Our Nationwide Ministry</b> . . . . .	39
Mennonite Church Canada . . . . .	40
Mennonite Church British Columbia . . . . .	44
Mennonite Church Alberta . . . . .	45
Mennonite Church Saskatchewan . . . . .	46
Mennonite Church Eastern Canada. . . . .	48
<b>Related Organization Reports</b>	
Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. . . . .	49
Bethania Group . . . . .	50
Canadian Mennonite . . . . .	51
Canadian Mennonite University . . . . .	52
Eden Health Care Services . . . . .	53
Inter-Mennonite Chaplaincy Assoc.. . . . .	55
Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba . . . . .	56
Mennonite Collegiate Institute. . . . .	58
Mennonite Disaster Service . . . . .	60
Westgate Mennonite Collegiate . . . . .	61
<b>Listing of MCM Staff/Board of Directors</b> . . . . .	62
<b>MCM Staff Photo Directory.</b> . . . . .	63
<b>MCM Board Photo Directory</b> . . . . .	65
<b>The Clusters of MCM.</b> . . . . .	66

# 76th Annual Gathering Program

## Friday, March 3, 2023

6:30 pm: Registration  
7:00 pm: MCM-Wide Worship Service with Communion

## Saturday, March 4

8:30 am: Registration  
9:00 am: Welcome  
9:05 am: Music and Prayer led by Douglas Mennonite Church  
9:15 am: Keynote Address by Doug Klassen, Executive Minister, MC Canada  
9:40 am: Table Discussion around Vision/Mission/Values  
10:30 am: Break  
11:00 am: Agenda Review and Acceptance of Minutes of 75th Annual Gathering, Affirming 2022 Board Actions  
11:15 am: 2022 Financial Report and Introduction of 2023 Budget  
11:30 am: Program Reports  
12:15 pm: Lunch  
1:15 pm: Guests and Greetings  
1:30 pm: New Church Applications  
1:40 pm: Appointments to MCM Positions  
1:45 pm: Focus on 2023 Budget  
2:00 pm: Breakout Sessions around Working Groups and Program Areas  
2:45 pm: Approval of 2023 Budget  
3:00 pm: Closing Worship  
3:30 pm: Adjournment

5:00pm **Custodians. A story of Ancient Echoes.** A Manitoba premiere screening at Marpeck Commons, CMU.  
◀ This new film from award-winning Rebel Sky Productions (Reserve 107, 2016) explores the work of local landowners, volunteers and municipal government of Herschel, Sask, in protecting and conserving the many signs of historic Indigenous presence in the region. Tipi rings, sacred circles, even petroglyphs show the importance of this site, and many like it across the prairies. The documentary raises important questions of land-sharing, the conservation of ancient intellectual and spiritual heritage, and respectful Indigenous-settler collaboration.  
◀ View the trailer here: <https://youtu.be/64h7jTyoSms>

# Foreword

Welcome to the Mennonite Church Manitoba report book, looking back at 2022. In this book you will find a representation of the work that our MCM staff, our MC Canada staff, and the staff of many related organizations provide for our constituency. Of course, there is much more that goes on among us as MCM than is reflected in this book. The vast majority of MCM's work is done among us and through us as congregations seeking to follow Jesus within our communities toward greater faith and hope and love. To get a fuller picture of the ministry we share as MCM, we would need to include the annual report book of every congregation!

As you prepare for our 2023 Gathering, please use this report book as your guide to what has happened this past year in our shared and related ministries. The Gathering will focus not as much on the past as it will on exploring what God is doing among us now in order to re-imagine what God might do among us in the coming months and years. We trust these reports will give us a common understanding of what God is already doing in our midst, what we are facing, and what opportunities lie before us.

After two years of Zoom Gatherings, we are excited to gather in person this year! Thank you to Douglas Mennonite Church for their gracious hosting of our Gathering. It will be wonderful to worship together on the Friday evening (March 3) as a regional church body, and then to discern and be inspired together on the Saturday (March 4) as delegates and guests.

This report book and our in-person Gathering are made possible because of the collaborative effort of many people. Thank you to all who have submitted material for this book, and to those who have prepared to contribute to our Gathering. Special thanks to Darryl Neustaedter Barg, our Communications Director, for producing this book, and to Naomi Ewert, our Administrative Assistant, for coordinating our Gathering.

I look forward to “Re-Imagining Church Together” with you at Gathering 2023. Our God is indeed able to “accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine,” for “God’s glory in the church and in Christ Jesus” (Eph 3:20-21).

Michael  
Pahl  
*Executive Minister*



# Vision and Mission

## VISION

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

Our Vision is the ideal we want and hope to become. We see ourselves growing in size and faithfulness, and building up our community of churches. Our reason for being is our faith, lived and known and, specifically, articulated in the Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective. As a community, we will strengthen each other and our member congregations, to follow Jesus Christ and present Him to all people.

## MISSION

Our mission is to resource and empower each other, and to facilitate spiritual growth, service and evangelism.

To fulfill our mission, we are committed to ministries such as:

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

# Values

## COMMUNITY

MCM is a covenant community whose sense of togetherness flows from common vision, understanding of scripture and confession of faith. Our commitment is to be together and to grow closer in love without insisting on uniformity.

## LOVE, CARE AND NURTURE

God's message of love motivates us to nurture and care for others and each other.

## MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY

MCM and member congregations are accountable to each other in matters of doctrine and discipleship.

## DOCTRINE

All doctrine is grounded in the holy Word of God as found in the Bible. The core of our doctrine is articulated in the Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective.

## DISCERNMENT

As a community and as individuals, we seek the will of God for the church through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, by searching scripture, discerning the culture and the times in which we live, and waiting patiently for God's revelation.

## DISCIPLESHIP

We encourage churches and their members to be obedient disciples of Christ, living holy and God-honouring lives.

## EVANGELISM

We proclaim and witness to the good news of salvation in Christ, and God's kingdom.

## SOCIAL CONCERN

We reach out to, and walk with, people afflicted by poverty, conflict and injustice.

## PEACE

We believe that peace is the will of God, and that we are called to live and work as Christian peace-makers.

## STEWARDSHIP

We embrace the biblical message about the management of all we are and have been given under God's creation.

—as adopted at delegate meeting @ Bethel Church, June 17, 1998

# From the Moderator

After serving 5 years as Moderator of MCM, this is my last report. How different the MCM world looks today compared to when I took on this responsibility in 2018. When I began this role we had come through a period of tremendous change and intense debate. Our structures across Mennonite Church Canada had changed; we were setting out on a new direction in camping; the difficult Being a Faithful Church process had resulted in a heart wrenching loss of congregations. In my first report I observed that each of these issues tended to pit us against each other rather than unify us, each tended to divert us from focus on our primary identity as part of the Body of Christ.

At that time I expressed hope that we could move past these issues with greater unity generated by a common identity and mission. I believe we did make some progress, but then came the two plus years of pandemic. I am not sure if the pandemic essentially changed us, or whether it only accelerated changes that were already beginning to take place. Whichever it is, we are not at the same place we were when the pandemic began.

There is growing evidence that attendance in our congregations is down, and will likely not quickly return to pre-pandemic levels. Whereas some people are simply not attending in-person as regularly as they used to, perhaps watching services on line, others appear to have drifted away entirely. I also have the impression that the pandemic has made many of us testier in a time of polarization, quicker to focus on differences and express frustrations. And it is clear that our financial reality has been impacted under these pressures.

A year ago we were able to come to the delegates at the annual gathering with the announcement that we had a remarkable surplus, allowing us to provide mission grants to seven congregations. That was exciting. Regrettably, however, we now need to share that the 2022 fiscal year, in contrast, has generated a substantial deficit.

Congregational contributions to the larger church (MCM and MC Canada combined) were right on target (THANK-YOU FOR THAT!), with MCM general expenses slightly under budget. But projections for the

camping program were not realized as donations to camp programs were down considerably, even as expenses exceeded what was budgeted due to inflation and the need to hire staff where volunteers had formerly contributed, altogether producing a major deficit. Early signs are positive for the 2023 camping program (e.g., camper registrations, rentals), but some difficult challenges remain here.

Being church in this post-pandemic reality is not easy, nor will it get easier. Without concerted refocusing the decline in numbers and finances is likely to continue. At the centre of such refocussing must be the question: What is central to being church, what is our primary mission as Mennonite Church Manitoba in the first half of the 21st century? Leadership, in congregations and in the conference, will be critical so we can together discern what priorities are most faithful to God's call at this time, and what programs or strategies will help unify us and our energies around them.

The good news is that we are not alone, and that it is not our mission. God is at work in our world, and with us. I conclude with a reminder of the verses I quoted in my first report: "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were no people but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy but now you have received mercy." 1 Peter 2:9-10.

May we be such a people, declaring and signing God's wonderful deeds to those around us.

Gerald  
Gerbrandt  
*Moderator*





# Executive Minister's Report

“Now to God who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” (Ephesians 3:20-21)

We are in a time of upheaval and uncertainty. In this time, we as Mennonite Church Manitoba may find ourselves asking a lot of God. We may find ourselves imagining more for the church than seems possible.

Most of us don't feel the reality of Covid as directly on our day-to-day lives as we once did. But the pandemic, with economic and political waves in its wake, has had a seismic impact on our society and on the church. Other movements and trends in our western world and around the globe also contribute to the sense of upheaval and uncertainty many of us feel.

In conversations with pastors, congregational leaders, and church members this past year I have heard a common refrain: our church has changed, our church is changing, and we're not sure what this all means. It's tempting to give in to fear or despair, or to pretend these changes aren't happening and try to return to our pre-pandemic normal.

But the church has changed, it is changing, and we need to ask anew questions we thought were already settled. Who are we as a church? What is God calling us to at this time? Many of our congregations are asking these questions, and these congregational conversations around identity and values, vision and mission, also rise to the level of our regional church community. The MCM vision, mission, and values statement is 25 years old this year. It's an excellent statement, but it reflects a different time and a different church. It is appropriate for us to begin asking these questions as a regional church body.

Through these wonderings and wanderings, God is at work among us. Many congregations have focused on mission

efforts in their local community, and seven MCM congregations were aided in this community work by our one-time Local Mission Grant fund in 2022. Youth and young adult leadership development was a significant MCM story last year with our summer Camps with Meaning program, our participants in Mennonite World Conference's Global Youth Summit, and our participants in the MC Canada Gathering Youth Leaders Experience. These and many other special experiences build on the day-to-day, week-by-week ministry we share together as MCM: supporting pastors and congregations in the full range of their ministries, and facilitating ministry together regionally and, through MC Canada, nationally and around the world. You can read about this good work of God among us in the reports which follow.

Yet 2022 had its challenges. We lament the departure of River East Mennonite Church from our community of congregations, even as we wish them God's blessing for their future. We lament the departure of congregants who have drifted away over the course of the pandemic. We mourn the changes to familiar ways of being and doing church together. We continue to grieve the loss of lives to Covid, and the negative impact of Covid protections on our wellbeing, however necessary those protections were.

Some of our congregations are involved in discernment around LGBTQ+ welcome or affirmation, and this conversation has had an impact on us as a regional church also. In 2017, after the MC Canada assembly resolution to “create space” for this congregational discernment, the MCM Board called on us to come back to this matter after three years to “to share how the Spirit has moved in our midst.” Through a listening circle in the fall of 2021 and ongoing conversations with congregational leaders testing possible MCM statements in 2022, we can now say with confidence that the Spirit has indeed been moving in our midst in a variety of ways, yet we don't all agree on this matter and we won't agree any time soon. We need to continue to commit to one another in our unity in Christ by the Spirit,

even as we continue to create space for congregational discernment around this. This will be our “position” for the foreseeable future.

2022 also saw some serious financial challenges for us as a regional church. After two years of major surpluses, we had a major deficit. I am grateful for the generosity of our congregations in meeting their commitments to our MCM ministries, and to individuals among us who stepped up to help fill the gap in donations. Much of the blame for this past year’s deficit can be laid at the feet of lingering pandemic effects and high inflation, but the specific factors behind it are complex and we will spend some time at our Gathering discussing them. This financial reality puts us at a bit of a crossroads as a regional church—a good place to begin re-imagining church together.

Yes, we as Mennonite Church Manitoba may find ourselves asking a lot of God. We may find ourselves imagining more for the church than seems possible. Yet we are assured in Ephesians 3 that God can “accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine”—specifically for God’s glory “in the church.” Do we believe this?

As congregations, as a regional church, and as a nationwide church, may we be bold to trust in God as we ask for and imagine new things for the church in 2023 and beyond.

Michael  
Pahl  
*Executive Minister*



# Camps with Meaning

A big question for Camps with Meaning leading into 2022 was, “will they come back?” We were both excited and a little anxious to see how this year would pan out after two years of shut downs and interruptions due to the pandemic. In many ways, our expectations were exceeded. Campers came back! We reached 86% of our pre-pandemic registration numbers and we are confident that we will be able to increase these numbers over the next few years. Our Leadership Staff, counselors, SLTs, and Teen Volunteers also came back. They led our summer programs with love, passion, and great care. Our heartfelt thanks goes out to all of them. Many of our summer volunteers also returned, but not in full numbers. As a result, we hired kitchen staff and health officers to fill in when needed.

Camp Assiniboia’s year-round volunteers (affectionately known as the “Wednesday Crew”) also returned. In fact, a number of them never left, choosing to work “solo” at camp throughout the pandemic. By the latter half of 2022 however, the Wednesday Crew was once again working on group projects together—it was wonderful to see and expe-



rience their fellowship whether around the kitchen table or on rooftops! If you would like to join this amazing group of people, call Camp Assiniboia so that we can explore ways for you to plug in—we would love to have you.

In 2022, our rental groups also returned, but not as quickly as we would have liked. It took a while for group organizers to plan events once the restrictions eased in mid-March. The good news, however, is that by fall, we were busy with school groups, church groups, youth groups, families, and even a few weddings! Strong bookings con-

tinue into 2023—especially on weekends. Camp Assiniboia’s Guest Service Coordinator, Linda Dueck, is encouraging churches that haven’t booked this year to do so soon; our calendar is filling up!

There were many other things to celebrate in 2022. Thanks to generosity of donors: a new ropes course was built, 600 trees were planted, we were gifted with a camp truck, and



a new pump to fill the lake. We were also gifted with new people. We’d like to extend a warm welcome to Ed and Hildy Doerksen who have taken up residence at Camp Assiniboia so that Ed can serve as our new Facilities Manager. We have a number of new kitchen staff as well, working casual shifts throughout the year. We’d like to thank all of them for their hard work, and welcome them to our camp family.

I would be remiss if I didn’t mention the unexpected (but joyous) appearance of 24 baby piglets who were born over the summer. In

the spring, we purchased two sows for our petting zoo, but unbeknownst to us, they were both pregnant. Needless to say, the piglets were the hit this past summer; it was truly wonderful to watch campers’ expressions as they held and played with the piglets. In the



fall, we also purchased a new sheep (Amor), two pygmy goats (Paco and Ayo), and some crazy-haired chickens.



They, along with Otto, our cat, have been delighting guests; connecting them to the world of the four-legged. If you haven't visited our petting zoo yet, come out and join us at our next camp event. The animals will be happy to see you!

While there was much to celebrate, 2022 was not without its challenges. A number of staff who were laid off during the pandemic did not return. A considerable amount of energy went into hiring and training staff and rebuilding our programs. Moreover, while in 2021 we received significant financial support from private donors, this support dropped off in 2022. This, coupled with the slow return of rental groups, inflation, aging facilities in need of repair, and increased staffing costs due to a drop in summer volunteers, competitive job markets, and all of the costs associated with hiring and training, contributed to a significant deficit.

We have reviewed our responses to these challenges, and have identified additional steps that we can take to prevent future deficits. In 2022, we added an extra fundraiser (Pedal Dash Paddle), we approached churches to see if they would help us cover wages of leadership staff who did not have a supporting church, we raised our rental rates twice, the kitchen sought to reduce costs by sourcing new food suppliers and by keeping food waste to a minimum, we sought in-kind donations wherever we could, and we hired a marketing company to assist us in developing a new communications and marketing strategy for the summer camp program, donors, and volunteers. We were able to hire this firm through a grant that we received from The

Winnipeg Foundation. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for their support.

Our financial review also looked at what we couldn't do, as this reflects some of the hard realities of our camping ministry at this point and time. We couldn't defer our repair & maintenance projects. Camp Assiniboia is simply at a point where, if we hold off on making repairs, bigger problems will arise. We also couldn't cut back on staffing. Everyone who works for Camps with Meaning is essential for our programs and operations.

So what else can be done? Looking ahead to 2023 we will continue to implement our new marking strategy. We will also pursue new grants for summer staff wages and repair & maintenance projects. In addition, we are also going to pursue a one-time federal grant to hire a volunteer coordinator. Finally, while our budget in 2023 relies less on private donations, we will continue to hold fundraising events throughout the year. Please stay tuned for announcements on these events; we need your financial support.

We also plan to move ahead with our Capital Campaign, as this ministry's long-term financial health and sustainability can be achieved through the additional facilities and subsequent revenue that it offers. As such, a Fundraising Team Executive began meeting in October of 2022 to plan the various aspects and phases of this campaign, starting with the "quiet campaign" this spring. For updated information on this campaign, please join our Annual Gathering workshop, and for information, refer to the 2020 Camps with Meaning Strategic Plan. <https://mennochurch.mb.ca/res/pub/Manitoba/Events/2020/Camps-with-Meaning-Strategic-Plan-2020-AGM-.pdf>

On behalf of the Camp Committee and MCM staff and Board, we would, once again, like to thank all of the Camps with Meaning supporters, volunteers, and churches who contribute in such meaningful ways. We couldn't run camp without you!



Dorothy Fontaine  
*Director of Mission*



Camp Koinonia started the 2022 year very slow with Covid 19 restrictions still being in place until March, which then translated into guest groups slowly booking again in early summer and into the fall. Overall, our guest group numbers were down in 2022.

Some of the highlights of 2022 for was the purchase of 10 new single kayaks. These Kayaks will be enjoyed by our guest groups and well as available for Camps with Meaning to use for their program during the summer. Camp Koinonia received a 50/50 grant from Building Sustainable Communities, a provincial grant, to replace 3 emergency exit/entrance doors. We replaced the emergency exit in The Pit area, the back door by the laundry room and a very nice set of handicapped accessible double entrance doors at the front of the Main Lodge. Camp Koinonia also received a Hometown Greenteam grant to hire summer help in July and August, we were thankful for Micah Loewen for taking on that position.

Camp Koinonia was very excited to host Camps with Meaning for a week of ADV camp at the end of May and then 6 more weeks in July and August. We really want to

thank Dorothy and Janet for making that happen again this year. The Summer program, that Camps with Meaning offers, is the main reason that the Camp Koinonia Inc. board exists, our main purpose is to maintain the facilities so there can be a place for the summer program.

Thanks in huge part to our volunteers over the past year we were able to accomplish many things, including 27 people helping with our woodcutters retreat in late October. Thank you also to Evan Laramée, our Onsite Manager, for all your hard work maintaining the camp and to Meara Sparling, our Guest group Coordinator, for staying on top of all our inquiries and bookings. Matthew Heide continues to be the Camp Manager, taking care of general oversight, personnel and finances.

For more Camp Koinonia information, please check out our website [www.campkoino.ca](http://www.campkoino.ca)

Camp Koinonia Inc. Board  
Jan McIntyre, Ben Heide, Sheldon Dyck, Ron Toews and Clarice Martens

# Summer Program Report

## Bible Curriculum and Theme Song

Our Bible curriculum for summer 2022 was titled “Discipleship: Get in the Boat.” Written by Laura Funk, the focus Scripture text came from Matthew 8:23-27, the story of Jesus and the disciples in a boat, Jesus sleeping, a storm arises, the disciples panic, Jesus calms the storm, the disciples worship. The daily lessons focused on how we can be disciples in all aspects of our lives: with our physical being, using our resources, in our relationships, using our gifts and talents, and through spiritual disciplines.

We re-started our song-writing workshop this year, and with Darryl Neustaedter Barg taking the lead, we composed a sea shanty-like song that encourages us to “Get in the Boat” and sail every sea with Jesus as our captain beside us.

This next summer’s overarching theme is “Peace.” As in other years, we will pull together past Bible Instructors, pastors and teachers to give direction and shape to the curriculum.

## Summer Program

This summer was an exciting return to overnight camps and Adults with Disabilities (ADV) camps. While COVID did affect us at two separate times, with enough staff testing positive to cancel one week in July and close early one week in August, these were fairly isolated cases, and the rest of our summer ran very close to “normal.”

We ran almost full spring and summer weeks at both camps, with 2 ADV weeks and 5 camper weeks at Koino-

nia and 3 ADV weeks and 5 camper weeks at Assiniboia. Our Adult campers were so excited to be back (and so were we!), although we did have to cancel one of their weeks due to staff illness. Plans are to have 3 Adult weeks at each camp again next year.



Our Junior-Intermediate weeks with a day camp option were a big hit at Assiniboia, with a total of 97 campers on site during the days for one week. We also had 14 Junior Highs experience an out-trip at Koinonia. While many of our other weeks were slightly smaller than normal, we ended up with over 120 Adults registering and over 370 campers registering this summer.

Assiniboia now has a full complement of kayaks and a number of new animals to add to our summer programming. The new ropes course is up behind the picnic shelter and ready to use this spring. Koinonia has upgraded the

waterfront area with new racks for the canoes and kayaks. Both camps have plans for new buildings and renovations in our upcoming fundraising campaign.

## Retreats

The Birding Retreat took place May 26-29 this past spring with around 45 people coming together around this common hobby at Turtle Mountain Bible Camp. Plans are to meet at Camp Arnes in May 2023,

and then we will be back at Koinonia in 2024.

Our Fall Staff Retreat saw 40 of those 70 summer staff back at Assiniboia for 2 days of fun and relaxation, a time for singing, eating and playing together. A Christmas party also took place in December, with about 30 staff enjoying



an evening of singing together and games both inside and out.

We re-started a fellowship time, called “This Ground,” at Assiniboia this fall. Folks of all ages are invited to afternoons of work, worship, and eating around the fire. We hope to meet monthly in spring and help get camp ready for summer while enjoying fellowship at a good place.

Our Winter ADV (Adults with Disabilities) Retreat is scheduled for February 20-22 this year. Like a mini week at camp, our campers stay in cabins, experience singing and worship, and will have a variety of indoor and outdoor activities to choose from, all led by our young adult summer camp staff.

Both Koinonia and Assiniboia continue to be available for church and group retreats of all kinds – we would love to have you on site!

### Staff and Volunteers

Our Leadership Team began with a week of training on May 2. This team of eleven young adults stretched themselves as they and the staff relearned the overnight camp

rhythm, and dealt with an increase in homesickness and anxieties from our campers who were also relearning how to be away from home and to live in community.

Our efforts to connect meaningfully with staff during the last two years resulted in a strong, if inexperienced, staff body. We had 30 staff this summer, mostly finished grade 11 and 12, with a good number of senior staff coming back to camp or trying it out for the first time. We also had a group of 17 Servant Leaders in Training (SLTs) and 10 Teen Volunteers (TVs) this summer to round out our staff body. Staff Training Week with a group of close to 70 was a blast!



Janet with Otto

We also had about 40 folks step in to volunteer for a week as camp pastors, health officers, and kitchen and maintenance help. As always, we know that camp cannot run without these dedicated and passionate people, and our camp community would be incomplete without them.



Janet Peters  
*Assoc. Summer Program  
Director*

## The following were the 2022 Leadership Staff:

### Assiniboia

Summer Program Directors: Johanna Klassen & Nicholas Harder

Bible Instructor: Zach Bartel

Farm Coordinator: Aubrey Epp

### Koinonia

Summer Program Directors: Katie Wilson & Natasha Bogoya Enns

Bible Instructor: Grace Siemens

Integration Coordinator: Miriam Huebner

SLT (Servant Leader in Training) Directors: Carrie Schulz & Scott Warkentin

TV (Teen Volunteer) Director: Alayna Smith

# Leadership Ministries

MCM's Leadership Ministries program and staff work with spiritual leaders and congregation across our regional body to engage in God's activity in the world by providing care, resources, networking possibilities, and support. For pastors and spiritual leaders serving MCM congregations, we provide individual pastoral care, opportunities for continued education, and monthly cluster meetings. We also work with congregations in the calling and locating of pastors and other ministry leaders, tending to the pastor-congregation relationship, credentialing for ministry, and structuring healthy approaches to conflict mediation when needed. We also serve as a point of connection to Leadership Ministries staff in other regional churches across MC Canada and MC USA.

2022 was a year of transition for this office. Rick Neufeld retired as Director of Leadership Ministries at the end of March after 6.5 years in this position and over 30 years

of experience in pastoral ministry. We are grateful for his ministry among us. Michael Pahl took over the Leadership Ministries role on an interim basis, focusing on the most essential aspects of the role while continuing his work as Executive Minister.

Laura Funk concluded her one-year volunteer role as Spiritual Director in Residence for MCM at the end of April. Her ministry was much appreciated by many among us as she led retreats and prompted spiritual practices for congregations, pastors, and MCM staff. We learned much through this experience that will help with any future "in Residence" positions MCM may develop.

On August 22, Jeff Friesen and Karen Schellenberg started as Co-Directors of Leadership Ministries. It is the first time this position is shared by two people, each of us working .5 FTE. Some wondered, how will this work?

## MCM PASTORAL PLACEMENTS:

(Congregation)	(Name)	(Position)	(Start Date)
Sterling	Kennedy Froese	Associate Pastor	January 1, 2022
North Kildonan	Mackenzie Hildebrand	Interim Associate Pastor	April, 2022
Whitewater	Terrell Wiebe	Interim Pastor	July 1, 2022
Bethel	Laura Funk	Associate Pastor for Seniors	May, 2022
Arnaud	Adam Robinson	Pastor	June 1, 2022
Steinbach	Michelle Stoesz	Assoc Pastor, Children, Youth, and Young Adult Ministries	September 11, 2022
First	Monica Bock	Interim Minister	September 1, 2022
Sargent	Ben Pauls	Interim Pastor	September 1, 2022

## CONCLUDING ASSIGNMENTS:

(Congregation)	(Name)	(Position)	(End Date)
First	Mark von Kampen	Associate Minister	May 31, 2022
Arnaud	John Klassen	Interim Minister	June 1, 2022
Springfield Heights	Ben Pauls	Interim Minister	June 12, 2022
Jubilee	Anna Marie Geddert	Community Minister	June 30, 2022
Emmanuel	Karen Schellenberg	Interim Pastor	June 30, 2022
Sargent	Marla Langelotz	Pastor	July 30, 2022
Charleswood	Jeff Friesen	Co-Pastor	August 19, 2022
Altona Bergthaler	Josh Janzen	Assoc Pastor, Youth and Young Adults	August 30, 2022
Morden	Lawrence Siemens	Associate Pastor for Seniors	August 30, 2022
Sargent	Andrea De Avila	Associate Pastor	August 30, 2022
Springfield Heights	Tobian Penner	Youth Pastor	August 30, 2022
First	Rachel Siemens	Interim Pastor	August 30, 2022
Springfield Heights	Jose Luis Morega	Lead Pastor	November 20, 2022
Whitewater	Terrell Wiebe	Interim Pastor	November 20, 2022
Grace (Brandon)	Ken Quiring	Pastor	December 15, 2022



## CREDENTIALING ACTIVITY:

(Congregation)	(Name)	(Credential)	(Service Date)
Home Street	Phil Campbell-Enns	Licensing for Specific Ministry	March 13, 2022
Home Street	Judith Friesen-Epp	Ordination	May 8, 2022
Saint Julian's	Marcus Rempel	Ordination	May 29, 2022
Home Street	Michael Pahl	Ordination	June 19, 2022
Sargent Avenue	Korey Dyck	Licensing for Specific Ministry	June 26, 2022
Fort Garry Mennonite Fellowship	Donna Peters-Small	Lay Minister	October 30, 2022

Who will do what? How will we ensure all the bases are covered without too many gaps? It's a big job supporting, and taking care of the pastors from 39 congregations! We learned very early on that they value having a pastor who comes out to visit them, calls them on the phone or provides opportunities for them to meet with other pastors. In short, pastors need pastors too!

Another area of focus for us in the fall was to connect with search committees and church boards ministering to MCM congregations. As you can see from the tables, there were a significant number of transitions in ministry in 2022. Through our work with search committees and church boards in the calling and locating of pastors, we have seen God's presence emerge among us in a multitude of ways. Seeing so many positions being filled by new folks has been a source of inspiration for us and serves as a reminder that there is still much to celebrate in the shared life as MCM. People remain open and willing to serve our congregations.

This office is also responsible for attending MCM's Ministerial Leadership Committee (MLC) and MC Canada's Church Leadership Ministry (CLM) meetings. The members of these committees have been gracious and welcoming toward us as we sought to familiarize ourselves with the work of each committee. MLC is our advisory group who we meet with to discuss matters related to the work of our office. A key piece of this to assist with the credentialing processes for pastors and spiritual leaders. We are grateful for the continued work of the members of the MLC, which includes Erin Morash (Prairie Mennonite Fellowship), Lee Hiebert (Steinbach), Laverne Siemens (Gretna Bergthaler), Harold Schlegel (Altona Bergthaler), Marla Langelotz (Sargent), and Julia Thiessen (Charleswood).

The nationwide Community of Spiritual Leadership com-

mittee has undergone some evaluation in order to become more focused in its purpose and how it fits within our MC Canada structure. This has prompted similar questions for our MCM COSL committee, and decisions are still pending as to whether this regional committee will continue. This committee, including Lee Hiebert (Steinbach), Nadya Langelotz (Sargent), Virginia Gerbrandt Richert (Altona Bergthaler), Laverne Siemens (Gretna), and Laura Funk (Bethel), did some good work this past year in providing feedback on the Bible study guide developed for the 2022 MC Canada Gathering, "We Declare." The group also developed a sermon resource to accompany this material.

We are grateful for the Leadership Bursaries we can distribute to support financially those pursuing training related to ministry: the A. G. Neufeld, Jake & Dorothy Pauls, and Johann Funk funds. In 2022 Janet Peters received funds for transitional ministry training, and Korey Dyck for clinical pastoral education training.

Submitted by Jeff Friesen, Karen Schellenberg, and Michael Pahl

Jeff Friesen  
and Karen  
Schellenberg,  
Co-Directors  
of Leadership  
Ministries



## Abram G. Neufeld Minister and Missionary Education Fund

The goal of the Abram G. Neufeld Minister and Missionary Education Fund is to provide financial support to pastors and missionaries who would like to further their training. Leadership Ministries administers the proceeds of this fund. We also attempt to invest in the fund as possible. We invite your donations.

If we can build the invested amount, it will be possible to help more pastors and missionaries. Your gifts are an investment in people preparing for Kingdom work. We'd love to hear from you.

Each year we are able to award bursaries based on the earnings of the fund. Since the monies have been invested in mutual funds (administered by Abundance Canada), the amount varies from year to year. The earnings are made available to us in mid-June.

Applications received by June, 1 2023, will be considered.

If you would like to apply for the  
**Abram G. Neufeld Bursary**  
**Jake and Dorothy Pauls Pastoral Leadership Training Fund,**  
**Johann Funk Memorial Fund**  
in 2022, please contact MCM Leadership Ministries to receive guidelines and an application form.

Donations are welcome.

## Jake and Dorothy Pauls Pastoral Leadership Training Fund

The idea for this fund grew out of a vision of Jake Pauls that the training of pastors should be given high priority in the Mennonite Church. The purpose of this fund, therefore, is to support leadership training for people who are called to pastoral ministry and who are in a program of studies with an Anabaptist/Mennonite focus.

Those who apply are eligible for up to \$2,500.00 per year dependent on the earnings of the fund. Monies are invested with Abundance Canada and are administered by Mennonite Church Manitoba.

Applications received by June 1, 2023 will be considered.

## Johann Funk Memorial Fund

The Johann Funk Memorial fund provides interest free loans to students who desire theological training. An applicant may borrow up to a maximum of \$1,500.00 per year and make a maximum of two consecutive loans. (Since the fund is quite small, we cap the total loan for any one student at \$3,000.00).

Applications received by June 1, 2023, will be considered.

# Congregational Ministries

## 2022: A Year Full of Good Investments

We've made a multitude and variety of good investments this year. From initiating new congregational conversation spaces to creating and locating resources congregations were looking for. These initiatives and investigations flow from a MCM Board decision in 2021 to create a position to directly focus on congregational health. In the Fall of that year, I was invited and excited to take on the newly created position of Director of Congregational Ministries. Alongside this position, MCM created a Congregational Health Committee to support and guide the work that we discerned should be the focus of our efforts.

### Highlighting our Top Nine Investments:

1) **An Afternoon of Equipping**, entitled "Congregational Care: possibilities and pragmatics", was offered online in March. Topics were suited for congregational care committees, deacons, and ministerial groups. Twelve small break out groups were offered on a wide variety. A sample of four topics explored:

- Shifting Care over the years: stories from Sargent Avenue MC - Marla Langelotz, Pastor Sargent Ave MC
- Planning to Offer Care to Community Families - Randy Hildebrand, Pastor Springstein MC
- Caring for Busy Households: when programs don't fit - Carrie Martens, Pastor Pembina Parish
- Proactive Care: looking ahead - Kathy Giesbrecht

An Afternoon of Equipping was well received, in particular people appreciated hearing what was happening in other congregations and receiving resourcing that resonated with their realities. This event inspired the creation of MCM Mondays for 2023, a series of online sessions exploring the many and varied aspects of congregational life.

2) **Circles of Congregational Care: a reflection and reimagining tool**. We invested in the creation and promotion of a tool that would support the reflection and reimagining work surrounding congregational care that was happening in MCM congregations. This resource tool was introduced

in Pastoral Cluster groups and on the first MCM Monday (Jan. 2023). It was also promoted and made available on our website and newly formed MCM Congregational Care Facebook Page.

3) **Congregational Support** was a top priority investment in 2022, as many were working with post pandemic realities, questions, and learnings. Engagement with congregations included: consultation with leadership groups, congregational visits for preaching/ teaching/consultation, one on one conversations with congregational leaders, responding to requests for resources, and promoting opportunities for learning and inspiration.

4) Investigation was begun to explore the possibilities of offering congregations a tool and/or process for evaluating their health and shaping a way forward. The Congregational Health committee has starting discerning how best to offer a **Roadmap for Assessment and Accompaniment**.

5) We invested in our relationship with the Mennonite World Conference by forming and supporting a group of young adults to make congregational visits highlighting MWC's current ministries and to travel together to attend both the **Global Youth Summit and MWC Gathering in Indonesia**. The Indonesia 2022 group was coordinated by Andrea DeAvila whose role was made possible by supporting funds from Woven: Mennonite Women Together. Thank you Andrea, and thank you Woven.

6) Inviting our youth to be part of the national youth gathering, **Amplify!**, this summer was a fantastic commitment and investment many of our congregations made this year. 50 youth and youth leaders boarded the Bus and make the trek to Alberta. Participants came from 11 different congregations; Jeff Friesen (Charleswood MC) was our regional representative on the Planning Team, and Randy Hildebrand (Springstein) was Bus Captain extraordinaire. Much thanks to the congregations and youth leaders who made this possible for our youth!

7) Solid investment was made in the area of **young adult ministry and young leader development**. We continue to be a significant financial supporter of the Inter-Mennonite Chaplaincy Association, which provides support to the Menno Office on the University of Manitoba Campus. Pastor Mark Von Kampen has been our chaplain there for over a decade! Thanks Mark for your faithfulness. MCM was also well represented at the Youth Leaders Experience at the MC Canada Gathering in Edmonton this summer. We sent Ayub Regher (Glenlea MC) as a participant, Phil Campbell Enns (Home St. Co-pastor) served as host/guide for the group, and Larissa Pahl (Home St.) was called by MC Canada to coordinate this initiative.

8) Investing in our **YMF Circle of pastors** who carry responsibilities for children, youth, young adult, and family ministries continued in 2022. Consisting of 20 MCM pastors, we offered resource/retreat days, hosted online ministry conversation, provided pastoral care and vocational discernment conversations, and promoted opportunities for pastoral and personal development.

9) Beginning in the Fall of 2022, plans began to hold a **gathering for youth and young adults around the theme of climate action**. This Gathering will take place at Camp Assiniboia April 21-23, 2023. A planning group consisting of MCM youth/young adults, and staff was formed, and the MCM Climate Action Working Group has offered initial and ongoing support.

Grateful to God for  
our life together,  
Kathy Giesbrecht  
*Dir. of  
Congregational Ministries*



# Faith and Life Choirs

---



Faith and Life Male Choir - Christmas 2021

Conductor: Ben Pauls Pianist: Loren Hiebert

It has been such a joy to be able to sing together again, in person (not on zoom!), freely without masks, although a few members have been more cautious. What a delight! We've been able to return to a semi-regular rhythm of rehearsals and performances.

- May 29, the Male Choir lead in worship at the Springfield Heights MC, Winnipeg
- November 13, the Male Choir was at Sargent Avenue MC, Winnipeg, while the Women's Chorus served at Steinbach Mennonite
- October 29 and 30, the Women's Chorus sang at the Singin' in the Grain Fundraising concerts at Douglas Mennonite Church and Emmanuel Mennonite Church
- November 12, the Male Choir sang at a Fundraiser for the "Friends of the Mennonite Centre in Ukraine" held at Douglas Mennonite Church.
- December 18 the Male Choir and the Women's Chorus presented Christmas Carol Sing at Bethel Mennonite Church – a rather different kind of event from our usual concerts, but seemingly well received.

While the Faith & Life Choirs always represented Mennonite Church Manitoba wherever we go, we have appreciated other MCM staff joining us for these church visits, Dorothy Fontaine at SHMC, Karen Schellenberg at SAMC, and Michael Pahl at Steinbach.

We are immensely grateful to be able to work with Loren Hiebert and Anna Schwarz, our pianists. Loren brings not only his gifts and musicianship on the keyboard, but also his support in rehearsals, and his sensitivity to the moment, going beyond his role as "accompanist", to leading us in worship.

Ben Pauls, conductor of the Male Choir, and Janet Brenneman, conductor of the Women's Chorus, have appreciated being able to dream, work, and plan together, and look forward to joining voices again. We thank the congregations who allow us to rehearse in their facilities, and a thank-you to all the churches and staff of MCM for your support, your encouragement and the call to ministry. It is indeed a privilege to be able to bring our "VOICES TOGETHER" to "Sing To The Lord A New Song!"

## Upcoming Church Visits:

- March 12, 2023, Male Choir at Prairie Mennonite Fellowship, Crystal City, Women's Chorus at First Mennonite, Winnipeg
- April 2, 2023, Women's Chorus at Morden Mennonite, Male Choir at Jubilee Mennonite Fellowship, Winnipeg.
- May 6&7, 2023, Combined Choirs Spring Concert. First Mennonite Church, Winnipeg, and Emmanuel Mennonite Church, Winkler





Conductor: Janet Brenneman Pianist: Anna Schwarz

The Faith and Life Choirs are a ministry of Mennonite Church Manitoba.

*The mission is... to participate in the mission of the wider church by leading others into worship of God through music.*

In normal years, the choirs sing in Sunday morning worship services; at Nursing Homes; present concerts and lead in songfests in Manitoba and beyond. The choirs have recorded numerous CD's, and provided music for MCM Radio Ministry since the early 1980s.

## Circle of God's People Radio Program

---



Nadya Langelotz and Claudia Dueck

Circle of God's People is a monthly, 15 minute radio program highlighting Mennonite Church Manitoba ministry, community and music.

The program is hosted by Nadya Langelotz and Claudia Dueck.

### Broadcasting Times

8:45am. Every second Sunday of the month in Manitoba. Both CFAM and CHSM can be heard in Winnipeg.

Station	Location
CFAM/950	Altona (accessible in Winnipeg)
CHSM/1250	Steinbach (accessible in Winnipeg)
CJRB/1229	Boissevain
Online	<a href="http://www.pembinavalleyonline.com/radio/cfam">www.pembinavalleyonline.com/radio/cfam</a>

## Voices Together Hymnal

---



*Voices Together*, the new hymnal produced by MennoMedia for Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church USA, was launched online in December 2020, and into 2021. The pandemic made it impossible to do launch events in person.

Uniquely, Mennonite Church Manitoba was represented on the 14 member hymnal committee by two MCM staff: Darryl Neustaedter Barg (Director of Communications) and Paul Dueck (Camp Assiniboia). They began their work on the enormous project in 2016.

If you'd like to know more about the hymnal, feel free to contact Darryl or Paul via the MCM office.

The hymnal is available for purchase at the CommonWord Bookstore and Resource Centre ([www.commonword.ca](http://www.commonword.ca)).

There are many online resources at [www.voicestogetherhymnal.org](http://www.voicestogetherhymnal.org)

# Mission Ministries

## Beginnings

Thank-you for the welcome I received as I joined you all last March as together we seek to work in response to the many ways God is calling Mennonite Church Manitoba (MCM). My first zoom session during the AGM break-out room held 28 participants representing at least 19 congregations and I was able to hear how congregations are finding ways to love our neighbours. The group inspired the following ministry questions: is creation care considered mission, how are our congregations supporting newcomers, how are we doing the work of reconciliation with our Indigenous neighbours, how do we join others in finding solutions to homelessness, and how are we supporting Ukrainian families that have arrived in Canada? There are many concerns and it leads to this final questions: how do we discern our collective response and be faithful during this unprecedented time?

For congregations who have offered a formal invitation to speak, I sought to learn about the context of your community. Surveys were distributed and answered by members who gave an assessment of the state of their community – reflecting on your mission, active ministries, assets of your congregation, energy of your volunteers, and the needs in your community. I was asked to speak on themes of International Witness, loving our neighbours, food security, homelessness, obscure people in the Bible, asset-based community development, and indigenous relations. It was a blessing to be asked thoughtful questions and grapple together on the needs in our communities. May we be inspired by our shared stories, the emergence of partnerships, and the life-giving relationships built across socio-economic, cultural, and political lines.

## What is Mission?

This question is actively being asked as we seek to truly understand our posture of ministry for this new day. Covenant member Betty Enns quotes John Perkins in her book, “Go to the people. Live among them. Learn from them. Love them. Start with what they know. Build

on what they have. In the end, you want the people to be able to say, ‘We’ve done it ourselves.’” This is a great summary of a posture of “mission” that I can get behind! As I have been meeting with many people, I am hoping we as Manitobans can discover what mission means for us, what are best practices when we think of mission, and how can we align ourselves with what God is already doing. To this end, I am collecting mission stories as a way to understand what posture has been taken as we’ve left our buildings and found meaningful places in our communities and world to respond to the call. Please let me know if you have a mission story to share!

## Local Mission

With the \$30,000 of surplus funds from 2021, MCM was able to offer one-time grants to 7 congregations who are engaged or interested in engaging our communities in a new way. Emergency funds support households with housing security, child care, and Meals on Wheels. A basketball court was built in a church parking lot as a way to get to know neighbourhood children. Another congregation is using their space as a community centre to enable community activities. A community resource centre housed in a congregation is eager to start a program to relate to families. Funds offered to another congregation will support a newcomer household. Foyer renovations will allow space for people to find community, exchange information, and share resources. I had the opportunity to visit Cross Lake with 2 of our MCM congregations. After not being able to visit for over 2 years, the group was able to re-kindle life-giving friendships, provide children’s programming, and hear how the community stayed safe during Covid. I have learned that at least 10 congregations host Manitoba Harvest, have a food-pantry or offer a community meal. I want to learn more about these organizational stories so we continue to learn from each other. May abundant celebrations be held, food be shared, and people’s lives transformed by how congregations are stepping out and taking risks.



## International Witness

Jeanette Hanson from MC Canada has helped orient me to the International Witness Support Networks present to 7 different International partnerships that MCM congregations are supporting. 2 new congregations have joined these networks and others are in process, making it at least 13 MCM congregations who are finding ways to be involved in these mutually transformative relationships. Whether it be peace-building in South Korea, teaching in Ethiopia, offering literacy in the Congo, starting Mennonite Peace Houses in Thailand or translating in China – Anabaptism is finding roots in these different contexts with long-histories of Mennonite involvement. Through the networks, congregations get regular updates via newsletter or zoom call and share prayer requests. We are inspired by the rapid spread of Christianity in some of these places, where people endure religious suppression or violence, or where communities are called to ministries that also offer economic and social supports as well as spiritual nurture. It is a blessing to be able to look beyond our Canadian context and see God at work.

## Newcomer Support

As many as 17 congregations have come together in this ministry over the years, experienced friendship, developed a new understanding of our global communities, and have witnessed the transformation of children as they develop friendships with children from another culture. MCM congregations are well-organized to sponsor and welcome refugees. Together members find ways to offer long-term support, help find jobs, housing and community. What great dedication it is to listen, seek to understand the needs, problem-solve, and stretch our comfort zones as we get to know people who come from different places. I am impressed by the efforts to organize and build relationships. More recently, I have witnessed collaboration between a local rotary club and 2 MCM congregations who are responding to the furniture needs of Ukrainian families who have come to Manitoba under the temporary work visa program. As they are not considered refugees, there is less support available to these families. Together we

are learning what more is needed to set these families up for success.

## Liaison to Mennonite Coalition for Indigenous Solidarity (MCIS)

In many ways, I was able to start getting up to speed on the Canadian context and continued work toward reconciliation with our Indigenous neighbours. I virtually attended Indigenous-Mennonite Encounters held at Conrad Grebel, NAIITS, and Mennonite World Conference workshops. The Coalition on the Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery in the US was held in New Mexico and I was able to share a report from Manitoba to the 26 congregations who are part of the Repair Network. A highlight as part of the formation stage of MCIS was a gathering in Clearwater between Land Owners and Land Users. Inspired by Saskatchewan's Treaty Land Sharing Network, there is a desire to restore the treaty relationship and share the land for harvesting of medicines, animals and ceremonial practices. MCIS hopes to participate in more events related to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, vigils of lament over the ongoing discovery of unmarked graves as well as water and land protection. We are actively promoting the production of New Blood, coming Feb. 19 to Jubilee Place, sharing the amazing Blackfoot story of a boy forced into residential school who overcomes this experience to become chief of his people. I am grateful to be in relationship with you all as we discern and work together. Please continue to invite me into these important conversations!

Melanie Neufeld  
*Dir. of  
Mission Engagement*



# Working Groups

## Palestine-Israel Network

The Mennonite Church Manitoba Palestine-Israel Network (MCMPIN) remains a part of the larger Mennonite Church Canada Palestine-Israel Network (MC Canada PIN) which came together after the July 2016 MC Canada assembly passed its resolution on Palestine and Israel. Within this past year, the MCMPIN (formerly named “working group”) continued to meet monthly to pray, educate each other and the wider constituency, and advocate for peace, justice and human rights for all living in ‘the Holy Land.’

During this year, the 11 active members of the MCMPIN engaged and supported the following education and advocacy initiatives;

- Monthly UPDATEs were sent out to subscribers detailing: the activities of all MC Canada PIN groups; opportunities for involvement in advocacy including the monthly letter writing initiative, and education and advocacy events held locally; links and news about significant events related to Palestine and Israel; links to pertinent petitions to be signed; stories of resiliency and struggle; information on our ongoing partnership with Bethlehem Bible College;
- March 2 – April 6, ran the Xplore Course through Canadian Mennonite University entitled Israel-Palestine: Is this Settler Colonialism? Guest speakers included Palestinian and Jewish voices from Palestine and Israel as well as within Canada actively working for a just peace, Michael Lynk former UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights in the Palestinian Occupied Territories, Enrollment for the course was excellent – 44 people registered from across Canada. (This was a joint MC CanadaPIN initiative.)
- May 15 - Nakba Commemoration Sunday MCMPIN encouraged constituency to join Independent Jewish Voices (IJV), United Church folks, CPAN (Canadian Palestine Advocacy Network) and members of the Palestinian community to raise the Palestinian flag at City Hall. This event commemorated 1948 when many Palestinians were killed and more than 750,000 Palestinians were driven from their homes by Zionist militias creating the longest living refugee population in the world to date.
- June 25 - Stories from Palestine: Sun and Shadow a

90 - minute zoom event was held hosted by Dr. Saida Afounneh, Palestinian professor from An Najah University in Nablus, Palestine. It focused on Palestinian resilience, the role of education and the wide range of emotions experienced while living under Israeli Military Occupation. The event was sponsored by MCC Manitoba, MC Canada PIN, MCMPIN and Mauro Center, U of Manitoba.

- August 24 – MCMPIN met with Palestinian Ambassador to Canada, Mona Abuamara and hosted a dinner event at Home St. Mennonite Church featuring Mona as guest speaker. (a joint collaboration with IJV and MCC Manitoba) 48 people attended,

- Sept. 4 – participated and invited MCM constituency to join in Run for Palestine event put on by Canadian Palestinian Association of Manitoba, at Assiniboine Park. This

was a fund raiser for the maternity unit in Al Shifa hospital in Gaza.

- Oct. 30 – Bethel Mennonite Church was the location for an evening with Bethlehem Bible College President Dr. Jack Sara and Professor Yousef Alkhouri. It was well attended by over 80 attendees. It included poetry by students from Students for Justice in Palestine, U of Manitoba. MC Canada is in partnership with Bethlehem Bible College.

- Oct. 30 – Dr. Jack Sara and Yousef Alkhouri spoke at Morden Mennonite Church in both the Adult Ministries hour and in the church service. Yousef Alkhouri spoke at Westgate Mennonite Collegiate and Mennonite Brethren Collegiate Institute in the days following the Bethel Mennonite Church event. Dr. Jack Sara and Yousef Alkhouri were interviewed by Will Braun and a number of articles on Christians in Palestine appeared in Dec. edition of Canadian Mennonite.

- Advocacy visits were made to numerous MLA and MP offices across political parties encouraging the Canadian government to support Human Rights and International Law in their position as a voting member of the United Nations and as a government committed to ensuring rule of law at home and in the global sphere. A large focus of these conversations encouraged the appointment of a Canadian Envoy to document the treatment of Palestinian children held in military detention.

- MCMPIN continues to collaborate with other advocacy groups through on-line meetings, promotion of webinars, and joint meetings with Manitoba MPs. They



**Mennonite  
Church Manitoba  
Palestine-Israel  
Network**

include Independent Jewish Voices, United Network for a Just Peace in Palestine and Israel (United Church connected), Mennonite Central Committee, Canadian Friends of Sabeel, local Palestinian associations and others devoted to justice and peace in the Middle East.

In the spirit of Mennonite Church Canada's Resolution on Palestine and Israel, we continue the work of listening and learning, educating and advocating for just peace. Pales-

tinian Christians urge us as brothers and sisters to speak truth to power, with humility but also with boldness in the fervent hope that Israel's 55 year military occupation will end, and everyone living in the land called Palestine and Israel will experience a true and lasting peace.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chair of MCMPIN - Joanna Hiebert Bergen  
mcmfriendsofpalestine@gmail.com

## Woven: Mennonite Women Together

Current members: Kathy Giesbrecht, Heather Hildebrand, Elsie Rempel

We hear from many corners that 2022 has been a challenging year. Some of those challenges have impacted our working group as well, so, our Woven activities have slowed this year, and one cherished member of our working group, Tina Fehr Kehler, resigned for personal reasons. We also thanked Marnie Klassen for her secretarial services and brought that agreement to an end.

We've listened to women in our constituency and sense there is little need at this time for us to call women together for events. We are grateful women are discovering spaces for spiritual nurture and support in a variety of ways. We will continue to listen for prompts that would call us to gather together women from our community.

We see value in having a yearly conversation with Mennonite Church Manitoba Leadership about the realities of women in our churches, and to lobby for women's concerns. This is initiated by our staff liaison, Kathy Giesbrecht.

Our Facebook page remains in a less active mode until a time when there will be both need and energy to maintain and drive traffic to it. Our Newsletter, Weaving Women's Words, remains and we produced an electronic newsletter in late June, in which we introduced the new women on staff at Mennonite Church Manitoba. It can be found on the MCM website.

We remain faithful stewards of the funds for "mission

with women" entrusted to us after Mennonite Women Canada was dissolved in 2019, our financial balance is close to \$20,000. Faithful stewarding of this resource includes offering a scholarship at CMU for an International Anabaptist woman in leadership. Due to COVID travel restrictions, there were no applicants this year.

But, the Mennonite World Conference, with its attendant gathering of young adults, did happen! We supported this initiative by providing funding, in the amount of \$4,000.00, for a project coordinator to make sure MCM sent young adults to this gathering. Andrea De Avila was invited to take on this role, which included coordinating congregational visits and accompanying the group to the Gathering. This group made 13

congregational visits to raise awareness about the current ministries of MWC before they attended the Global Youth Summit and MW Conference in July.

We also responded to a request from Valerie Alipova, pastor at Bethel MC and daughter of Anna Alipova, pastor of the Mennonite Congregation in Zaporoschje, Ukraine, a congregation that has been nurtured and supported by Mennonite Church Canada Witness. Valerie asked for help in supporting her 20-year-old sister and 2-month-old niece, who came from Ukraine as refugees in late 2022. We agreed the church mission connection made it a suitable project and were thankful we were able to offer support for flight expenses. We plan to share this story and provide opportunities to support this project in the next issue of Weaving Women's Words.

Submitted by Elsie Rempel, Chairperson of Woven



---

# Manitoba Mennonite Coalition for Indigenous Solidarity

---

The Mennonite Coalition for Indigenous Solidarity has continued to meet and coalesce as a group over the course of 2022. The group consists of 11 thoughtful and enthusiastic members, including representation from Steinbach, Altona, Winkler, Morden and Winnipeg. While the group was saddened by changes in MC Canada's Indigenous-Settler Relations program, we have also been grateful for the recent presence of the new Mennonite Church Indigenous Relations Coordinator, Jonathan Neufeld.

In May, members of the group helped organize a round-table conversation with 5 Winnipeg Mennonite congregations, hosted by Charleswood Mennonite Church to share learnings about land tax and reparations. The conversation inspired hopes for future educational and relationship-building opportunities on this important topic.

On Nov 26, MCIS gathered for a day-long retreat at the one-room Bergthal School at Neubergthal Heritage Site. The time included visioning priorities, strategizing communications with churches and the community, and exploring opportunities for resourcing and mobilizing Mennonites into the spiritual and practical work of Indigenous-Settler relations.

One key area identified was the potential for more social media engagement, and so MCIS had prioritized post-

ing resources and events on our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/100084351986296/](https://www.facebook.com/100084351986296/)) and Instagram account ([www.instagram.com/mennos4indigenoussolidarity/](https://www.instagram.com/mennos4indigenoussolidarity/)). MCIS invites interested individuals to follow these pages for ongoing opportunities.

MCIS is taking the lead in hosting and organizing the theatre performance of *New Blood*, in Winnipeg on Feb 19. The show is inspired by the life of Chief Vincent Yellow Old Woman, and the Alberta based troupe blends Blackfoot and contemporary music and dance to celebrate Blackfoot history and traditions. For tickets and information see: [www.mennochurch.mb.ca/newblood](https://www.mennochurch.mb.ca/newblood)

We look forward to more opportunities to connect in 2023 and welcome conversations about how we can support congregations wherever they are in their journey of Indigenous-Settler learning and engagement.

Prepared by Kerry Saner-Harvey and Allegra Friesen Epp,  
Co-chairs



# Climate Action Working Group

We are delighted to report on a fruitful year of collective action among MCM members and congregations over the past year. Ongoing formation of the CAWG, visits to churches, and building our muscles on advocacy work were the primary areas of engagement. The following is a brief summary and some highlights of the work. For a more fulsome discussion, please join us for the breakout session we will be hosting and check out the [CAWG website](#).

The CAWG was called into being in the fall of 2021 and has made formation and convivial process a crucial part of our work. Practically this means that our members, from Beausejour, Winnipeg, Plum Coulee, Altona, Morden, Springstien, and occasionally Mexico, gather monthly online to be church together and to discern horizons of climate action within and among MCM congregations and their members. Since our inception we have realized the importance of meeting together and have held in person gatherings in churches and homes across Southern Manitoba four times a year. During the first year, we also spent a good deal of time developing a collectively owned covenant and pedagogy document that guides our collective action. We recently added two new members to the CAWG and are grateful for the volunteer energy that continues to drive the work. With the new MC Canada position now in place, we are beginning to collaborate across regions and look forward to deepening this engagement with the wider church.

Starting conversations about climate in our faith communities requires a kind of wild patience. Wild because the realities of climate-related disasters (drought, flood, landslides, fire) are increasingly being felt in our own communities. That this is a reality fueled by a consumptive desire makes it personal. That these effects are felt by our brothers and sisters in the global South - many Anabaptist communities included - and that Canadian contributions to overall CO2 emissions per capita are the 5th highest in the world (some 200 countries), make this both personal, and political. We realize that these realities evoke many feelings and thoughts among our members and require patient

engagement - listening, discerning, lamenting - amidst the crisis. CAWG has been active in opening spaces for *Faithful Climate Conversations* in a number of churches already and have members who would be happy to come visit your congregation. **Please be in touch!**

Early on, the CAWG adopted the concept of a just transition from fossil fuel-based economic growth as a critical element of our work: it is a part of the mandate that we discerned together at the outset. We have had rich internal conversations about how a transition away from fossil fuels impacts people differently - rural, urban, farmer, workers,



business owners, etc. We are following federal government initiatives that are pushing mitigation - the reduction of GHG emissions - and the ways in which this transition will be supported by government programs, funding, and legislation. How might real justice be worked out in this transition? At our October 2022 annual public gathering, Josiah Neufeld (Hope Mennonite) and Laura Cameron (from International Institute for Sustainable Development) led a workshop identifying concrete actions to engage with members

of parliament, write letters, and otherwise provide energy to the just transition movement. The CAWG has agreed to, and signed, the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty ([www.fossilfuel treaty.org](http://www.fossilfuel treaty.org)) and will be looking for opportunities to visit congregations to talk further about this kind of advocacy-related work.

We appreciate the call to action from Michael Pahl that brought this working group together and renew our commitment: To ignite the imagination of MCM congregations in generating personally and societally transformative actions in response to the climate crisis. The CAWG will serve as a network and resource for congregational engagement in public policy and capacity building work toward a Just Transition here in Manitoba.

Submitted by Marta Bunnett Wiebe and Kenton Lobe (co-chairs)  
mcmcawg@gmail.com

# 75th Annual Gathering | March 5, 2022

## Online via Zoom

1. **Welcome-** Gerald Gerbrandt, Moderator, welcomed all, called the meeting to order 9:07am and opened with land acknowledgement. Zoom protocols were relayed.
2. **Gathering in Worship** (video):
  - Music, call to worship, and scripture reading of 1 John 1:3 provided by Springfield Heights Mennonite Church
  - Meditation from Michael Pahl on 'Koinonia' with each other and with God
3. **Agenda Review and Acceptance of Minutes**—Gerald Gerbrandt
  - Introduced MCM Board members
  - Meeting preliminaries:
    - Quorum was present: 104 delegates, 30 /38 congregations represented
    - Erwin Warkentin as Parliamentary
    - Naomi Ewert taking minutes
  - Reviewed agenda (Report Book p.5)
  - Minutes of the 74th Annual Gathering (Report Book p. 28)
  - **Motion from the Board: That the Annual Gathering minutes of March 6, 2021 be accepted as presented.** *Motion carried.*
4. **Affirming 2021 Board Actions**—Gerald Gerbrandt (Report Book Addendum, p. 3)
  - Structure of Board meetings was described
  - Key decisions were highlighted, adding that the position of Director of Mission Engagement was created
  - Questions/discussion:
    - Lee Hiebert (Steinbach): What is the amendment to Camp Assiniboia's Alcohol Policy?
      - ◁ Response- Michael Pahl: Camp remains alcohol free with exception for certain events that need to adhere to a list of requirements and conditions. This comes after repeated requests from potential rental groups, especially weddings.
    - Lee Hiebert (Steinbach): What is the policy regarding the use of the Memorial Fund? Can it be made available?
      - ◁ Response- Gerald Gerbrandt: The Board action was to move some funds into longer-term investments for better returns. The name of this fund is also misleading as it is basically reserves for MCM.
  - **Motion from the Board: That the 2021 MCM Board actions be affirmed as presented.** *Motion Carried.*
5. **"What is God up to?" from Home Street Mennonite Church**
  - Advent fundraising project for CoVax program was the most successful project to date- raising approximately \$7,000.
6. **Program Reports**—
  - Michael Pahl gave an introduction of MCM Staff, noted staff reports available in report book pp. 9-27. The video reports presented will focus on where are we now/where are we going in the future
  - **Executive Minister's Report** (video) - Michael Pahl
    - Highlighted MCM program areas, working groups, and the LGBTQ+ conversations and listening circle
    - Faith and Life Choir Women's Chorus recording
  - **Leadership Ministries** (video) - Rick Neufeld
    - Ending of 6 ½ years of ministry with MCM
    - This past year, helped transition 12 pastors and congregations and that number is rising
    - Pastoral ministry is a call to shared ministry
    - Shared how MCM helps and assists pastors
    - Phil Campbell Enns shared how MCM has supported him since has been a pastor in MCM since late 90's.
    - Participated in nationwide conversations through the Community of Spiritual Leadership.

- Highlighted Laura Funk's ministry of Spiritual Direction.
- Shared three ways for congregations to respond to the future of leadership in the church
- Thank you to those who have donated to MCM Leadership funds and Company of 1000
- **Congregational Ministries** (video) - Kathy Giesbrecht
  - Shared how transition into new role has gone and what Congregational Ministries entail
  - Clips from pastors who Kathy has walked along in their roles (Kennedy Froese, Jeff Friesen)
- **Mission Ministries** (video) - Michael Pahl
  - Grateful to Dorothy for her work as Director of Mission.
  - Gave more details of Melanie Neufeld's role of Director of Mission Engagement, highlighting a local mission grant for churches approved by the Board
  - Videos on the work of MC Canada Indigenous-Settler Relations (Steve Heinrichs) and International Witness (Jeanette Hanson)
- **Camps with Meaning** (video) - Dorothy Fontaine, Janet Peters
  - Getting ready for campers, summer staff, and guests as restrictions are lifting
  - Have developed recovery plan including a subsidy program for new campers and special events
  - Projecting a deficit in 2022 because of a slower first quarter and not expecting full capacity until fall
  - Plans for redevelopment projects/capital campaign are available on Camps with Meaning website
  - Two projects this spring: new ropes course and meditation trail.
  - Thank you to donors who have kicked off campaign, year round staff and volunteers, Alfriede Braun and Jake Fehr who have finished their roles, and Sandy Plett who served on Camp Committee. Welcome to new Food services coordinator Lauren Gervais and new camp committee member Krista Neustaedter Barg.
  - David Hogue who has been at camp 14 years is retiring this year.
  - Janet Peters reported that hiring for Summer Leadership roles has begun and camper and staff applications are coming in. Excited about return of overnight camp (fireside worship, cabin devotions).
  - Matt Heide shared about the facilities at Camp Koinonia
  - 2021 Summer camp video
- **Commonword** (video) - Arlyn Friesen Epp shared resources of bookstore and resource center

## 7. Reports on 2021 Finances and 2022 Budget- Michael Pahl

- Introductory comments: Gerald thanked staff for their reports, and for congregations and individuals who have been generous in their donations this year.
- It was noted that the vote on Financial Statements and Budgets will take place after the break.
- **2021 Finance Report** (video):
  - Shared Camps year end statements (revenue and expenses) to highlight unpredictability of Covid and generosity of camp supporters- Thank you! Recognized the work Dorothy did to secure grants and formally thanked the Winnipeg Foundation.
  - Because of these items, Camps almost broke even. Covid subsidies put MCM into surplus for 2021.
  - Finance committee has expressed concern that reserve funds are less than they should be for an organization of our size, so majority of surpluses from 2020 and 2021 is going toward that.
- **MCM General and Camps with Meaning 2022 Budget** (video):
  - Anticipating near normal summer for Camps with Meaning and rentals back to full capacity in Fall.
  - General MCM budget has been created to reflect changes in staffing, full forwarding to MC Canada and partners, and allowances under Executive schedule for MCM delegates to MC Canada Gathering.
  - Manageable deficit is projected, which will be covered by reserves
  - Budget will continue to be monitored throughout the year.
- **Report Addition** (Michael Pahl): Auditor's review has been done and 2021 Financial Statements have been revised accordingly. This review will not be publicly posted, but is available by contacting MCM office.

## 8. Breakout Rooms around Program Focuses:

- Congregational Health hosted by Kathy Giesbrecht
- Pastoral Leadership hosted by Rick Neufeld
- Local Church Mission hosted by Melanie Neufeld

- Camps with Meaning hosted by Dorothy Fontaine
- International Witness hosted by Jeanette Hanson
- MCM Finances hosted by Michael Pahl

9. **“What is God up to?” video**—Grace Mennonite Church

- Last April, focused on Climate Change- had guest speaker Katharine Hayhoe, planted 440 trees on church and community properties and sent money to MCC work in Haiti.

-----BREAK-----

10. **Continuing in Worship**

- Music set, scripture reading from Ephesians 4, and prayer from Emmanuel Mennonite Church

11. **“What is God up to?” video**—Arnaud Mennonite Church

- Six youth/young adults have chosen to be baptized coming up in 2022 – this accounts for almost 10% of regular attendees of the congregation!

12. Held **time of silent prayer** for the conflict in Ukraine, closed with prayer led by Karen Schellenberg.

13. **Guests and Greetings**—Gerald Gerbrandt

- Introduction of wider church body, MCM partner organizations, and how we relate together. IT was noted that regional and nationwide churches and partners have reports in Report Book, starting on p. 37.
- Special welcome to guests, partner representatives, and participants in Mennonite Church Manitoba, including:
  - Doug Klassen, Executive Minister for Mennonite Church Canada.
  - Leah Reesor-Keller, Executive Minister for Mennonite Church Eastern Canada
  - Dori Zerbe Cornelsen, Director of Development from CMU
  - Doug Amstutz, Development Associate for Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary
  - Harold Schlegel, Executive Director of Mennonite Collegiate Institute
  - Tobi Thiessen (Publisher) and Ginny Hostetler (Editor) from Canadian Mennonite
  - Darryl Loewen (Executive Director), and Kerry Saner-Harvey (Indigenous Neighbours Program Coordinator) from MCC Manitoba.
- **Mennonite Church Canada Report** (video) - Doug Klassen
  - Greetings through the continued reality of Covid 19 and impacts of Climate Change
  - Emphasized strength through the collective: inspired those who all shared their worship services, those who are participated Be it Resolved initiatives, and God’s Green Church resources that have been created under the expanding mandate of the Sustainability Leadership Group
  - Clarifying relationship between regional and nationwide church
  - Thank you for continued support
- **Video invitation to MC Cananda Gathering** “We Declare: What we have seen and heard” from Mennonite Church Alberta
- **Mennonite Church Eastern Canada greetings and report** (video)- Leah Reesor-Keller
  - Community of 99 congregation with six looking to join
  - Worship in 20 languages with diverse theological perspectives and worship practices
  - Been on a journey of Courageous Imagination to discern where is God calling. Using Isaiah 43:19 as focal verse
  - Annual Gathering will be in April 2022 where updated Identity and Purpose statements will be brought before delegates.
- **Greetings from CMU** (video)- Cheryl Pauls
  - Emphasized the expression of faith through ongoing relationships with the church (ex. CMU students working as camp staff)
  - Interviewed two MCM-connected students (Vlad Dibrova, and Alayna Smith) on their ‘Cares and Curiosities’.
- **Greetings from AMBS** (video) - Doug Amstutz
  - Thank you to all who continue to support AMBS



- Shared highlights of the Academic year.
- Noted continued partnerships with Mennonite World Conference and Meserete Kristos Church in Ethiopia

#### 14. “What is God up to?” video—Seeds Church

- In 2020 Seeds celebrated 20th anniversary and have since been discerning what is Seeds going to look like in the next 20 years. Have been working to be more involved in the local communities and starting conversations that then move beyond the church.

#### 15. Breakout Rooms around Current Issues:

- Climate action hosted by Sandy Plett and Nate De Avila
- Indigenous Solidarity hosted by Allegra Friesen Epp and Kerry Saner Harvey
- Palestine-Israel hosted by Esther Epp-Tiessen
- LGBTQ+ Inclusion hosted by Michael Pahl
- Post-Pandemic Church hosted by Ken Warkentin

#### 16. Sharing and Questions from the Zoom Floor

- Steinbach MC Delegates: What input was sought from MCM members in the formation of the Congregational Health committee? This is the first we are hearing of this group.
  - Response- Michael Pahl: It is a Board appointed committee which is then affirmed by delegates. It has been created along the same lines as all our other committees that support particular staff, areas, and programs. Not much input from delegates beyond the affirmation of committee members. Kathy Giesbrecht shared the names of committee members.
- Steinbach MC Delegates: There is a difference between 2016 BFC task force recommendation and the Listening Sub-Committee report: Creating space to test alternative understanding vs. “we have given freedom for congregations to discern their own way forward”. It seems like the recommendations are pushing in one direction, and would like a say before they are implemented.
  - Response- Michael Pahl: MCM is not prepared to make a position statement but want to make sure the diversity among us is recognized and supporting all of our constituency, which could mean ordination of an LGBTQ+ person in one of our affirming churches.
- Moses Falco (Sterling): Will MCM help us shift the conversation to include LGBTQ+ Christians as a whole? Or is the conversation still limited to same-sex marriage only? Other resources haven’t equipped us to discern these broader conversations.
  - Response- Michael Pahl: Hoping that our resources can address these conversations wherever they are at. Also looking to connect congregations who are in a similar discernment path to one another for support.
- John Klassen (Arnaud): I’m wondering if we have a sufficient understanding of the implications of ordination of an LGBTQ+ individual? The recommendations are important to give affirming congregations space and the ability to ordain. However, ordination is an MCM action that involves all congregations.
  - Response- Gerald Gerbrandt: Policy states that ordination is initiated by congregation, but ordination is done by regional church body.
  - Response- Michael Pahl: Agree that there are polity complexities, but at the very least we agree together that we create this space among us.
- Matt Froese (First Mennonite): Living our faith will spiral out into everything we do and it is a necessary part of what Mennonite faith looks like.

#### 17. Affirming MCM Appointments- Trevor Friesen-Stoesz, Chair of MCM Nominations Committee

- Introduced Nomination Committee members and directed to Report Book (pp. 33-35) for names of those who are currently serving as MCM reps and on MCM Committees and p. 36 for the Nominations slate.
- One addition: The Board has appointed Harold Peters Fransen to the Nominations Committee
- Correction: Isaac Schlegel will continue as Young Adult rep on Board until summer at which point Board will fill that position.
- Distinction between nominees appointed by the Board to committees and as reps for partner organizations (af-

firmed by delegates) and nominees for Board position (elected by delegates)

- Trevor listed all names put forward for voting this year.
  - **Motion from the Board: That the Board nominations to committees and partner organizations be affirmed as presented.** *Motion carried.*
  - **Motion: That the nomination to the Board be affirmed as presented** *Moved by Dale Friesen, seconded by Mark Von Kampen. Motion carried.*

#### 18. Receiving /Approving Financial Report and Budget

- Further comments/questions:
  - Gerald Gerbrandt: excited about the seed money we have been able to set aside for local mission projects.
- **Motion from the Board: That the 2021 Financial Report be approved as presented.** *Motion carried.*
- **Motion from the Board: That the 2022 MCM and Camps budgets be approved as presented.** *Motion carried.*

#### 19. “What is God up to?” video—North Kildonan Mennonite Church

- Shared ministries with families and Sunday School that happened over 2021.

#### 20. Going out in Worship

- Michael: Thank you for the “What is God up to?” pieces. God is working among us.
- Celebration of Church Life slideshow
- Gerald Gerbrandt recognized Board members and Staff for their service:
  - Richard Klassen, Board member for 6 years
  - Isaac Schlegel, Board member serving until summer
  - David Hogue, Site Manager, Camp Assiniboia (finishing April 30)
  - Rick Neufeld, Director of Leadership Ministries (retiring March 31)
- Thank yous to Darryl Neustaedter Barg (technical producer), Naomi Ewert (Zoom host and coordinator), MCM Staff and other participants who prepared video reports, and delegates, guests, partner reps and all others who participate in Mennonite Church Manitoba
- Rick Neufeld recognized all MCM Board members, Members of MCM committees and working groups, MCM and Camp staff, Pastors and lay ministers, Church council and church committee members, and delegates; then led a prayer of commissioning from Voices Together
- Closing thoughts and benediction from Rick Neufeld

Recorded by wNaomi Ewert

# MCM Representatives to Related Organization Boards

## ORGANIZATIONS RELATED TO MCM

(and MCM Representatives in *italics*, if applicable)

### **Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary**

David Boschart, President, 3003 Benham Ave., Elkhart, IN 46517  
Phone: 574-395-3726

*Rachel Siemens (First) 2024*

### **Canadian Mennonite Publishing Service**

Will Braun, Tobi Thiessen, Publisher, 490 Dutton Dr. Unit C5, Waterloo, ON N2L 6H7  
Nicolien Klassen-Wiebe, Provincial Reporter, mb@canadianmennonite.org

*Ken Reddig (Pinawa) (Completing Term)*

### **Canadian Mennonite University**

Cheryl Pauls, President, 500 Shaftesbury Blvd. Winnipeg, MB R3P 2N2  
Phone: 204-487-3300 ext. 667

*Mark Wiehler (Completed Term)*

### **Graduate School of Theology and Ministry (CMU)**

Karl Koop, Director 600 Shaftesbury Blvd. Winnipeg, MB R3P 2N2  
Phone: 204-487-3300 ext. 630

*Melanie Kampen (Into Account – non-MCM), 2024*

### **Eden Health Care Services**

204 Main St. Box 129, Winkler, MB R6W 4A4

*Laura Unger (Glenlea) Completing Term)*

*Cheryl Braun (Glenlea) 2024*

*James Schellenberg (Douglas) (Completing Term)*

*Wil Epp (Emmanuel) 2025*

*Lawrence Siemens (Morden) 2024*

*Linda Nichols (Pembina) 2024*

*Emma Hamm (Hope) 2025*

*Ken Froese (Pembina Fellowship) 2025*

### **Inter-Mennonite Chaplaincy Association**

Mark von Kampen, Campus Chaplain  
Inter-Mennonite Chaplaincy Assoc. University Centre  
University of Manitoba, R3T 2N2  
Phone: 204-474-9691 FAX 204 275-8098

*Bernie Loepky (Pembina) 2025*

*Susan Reynar (Home Street) 2025*

*Allison Janzen (First) 2025*

## **Manitoba Multifaith Council**

*Peter Rempel (Charleswood) 2025*

## **Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba**

Darryl Loewen, Executive Director, 124 Plaza Dr. Winnipeg, MB R3T 5K9

Phone: 204-261-6381

*Kevin Drudge (Covenant) (Completing Term)*

*Yvonne Stoesz (Pembina) 2022*

*Ennet Bera (Charleswood) 2024*

## **Mennonite Collegiate Institute**

Jennifer Klippenstein, Teaching Principal, Box 250, Gretna, MB R0G 0V0 Phone: 204-327-5891

## **Mennonite Disaster Service**

Ross Penner, Regional Manager

6A-1325 Markham Rd. Winnipeg, MB R3T 4J6 Phone: 204-261-1274

## **Westgate Mennonite Collegiate**

James Friesen, Principal, 86 West Gate, Winnipeg, MB R3C 2E1

Phone: 204-775-7111

# Committees

## Board of Directors

- Gerald Gerbrandt, Moderator (Bethel) (Completing term early)
- Cheryl Braun, East (Glenlea) 2023
- Andrea Hildebrand, South (Altona Mennonite) 2024
- Roy Lee, Winnipeg (Sterling) 2025
- Johanna Klassen, Young Adult (First) 2025
- Don Rempel Boschman, Winnipeg (Douglas) 2024
- Evelyn Rempel Petkau, South (Carman) 2023
- Karen Tiessen, West/North (Prairie) 2025

## Ministerial Leadership Committee

- Erin Morash, Chair (Prairie), 2024
- Marla Langelotz (Sargent) 2023
- Harold Schlegel (Covenant) (Completing term)
- Laverne Siemens (Gretna) 2024
- Julia Thiessen (Charleswood) 2025

## Congregational Health Committee

- Don Rempel Boschman, Chair (Douglas) 2024
- Bruno Dyck (Charleswood) (Completing term)
- Lisa Enns (Charleswood) 2025
- Mark Tiessen Dyck (Altona Bergthaler) 2025
- Dori Zerbe Cornelson (Hope) 2024

## Camp Committee

- Reynold Friesen, Chair (FaithWorks – non-MCM) 2024
- Andrew Klassen Brown (Sterling) (Completing term)
- Krista Neustaedter Barg (Douglas) 2025
- Dave Wiebe (Springstein) 2024

## Finance Committee

- Roy Lee, Winnipeg (Sterling) 2025
- Ruth Siemens (Gretna) 2026
- Doug Dyck (Covenant) 2024

## Nominating Committee

- Trevor Friesen-Stoesz, Chair (Altona Bergthaler) (Completing term)
- Moses Falco (Sterling) 2024
- Mackenzie Nicolle (Home Street) 2025
- Harold Peters Franzen (Home Street) 2025
- Henriette Schellenberg (Douglas) 2024

# Nominations Slate

Name	Term	Term Expiry
<b>MCM Board</b> (Elected by Delegates; YA appointed by Board)		
Cheryl Braun, Moderator (Glenlea)	First	2027
VACANT, East	First	2026
<b>MCM Ministerial Leadership Committee</b> (Appointed by Board)		
Lynell Bergen (Hope)	First	2026
Marla Langelotz (Sargent Avenue)	Second	2026
<b>MCM Congregational Health Committee</b> (Appointed by Board)		
Andrew Wiens (Nordheim)	First	2026
<b>MCM Camp Committee</b> (Appointed by Board)		
Marie Loeppky (Bethel)	First	2026
<b>MCM Finance Committee</b> (Appointed by Board)		
Ruth Siemens (Gretna)	Second	2026
<b>MCM Nominating Committee</b> (Appointed by Board)		
VACANT	First	2026
<b>MC Canada Joint Council</b> (Appointed by Board)		
Cheryl Braun (Glenlea), Moderator	First	2027
David Wiens (Elim), Regional Representative	First	2026
<b>Eden Health Care Services</b> (Appointed by Board)		
VACANT	First	2026
VACANT	First	2026
<b>Mennonite Central Committee</b> (Appointed by Board)		
Janet Plenert (Home Street)	First	2026
<b>Canadian Mennonite Publishing Service</b> (Appointed by Board)		
VACANT	First	2026
<b>Canadian Mennonite University Council</b> (Appointed by Board)		
Adelia Neufeld Wiens (Bethel)	First	2026

# Our Nationwide Ministry Together

## Our Covenant

Five Regional Churches—Mennonite Churches British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Eastern Canada—covenant together to create Mennonite Church Canada. Mennonite Church Canada carries our nationwide and international identity and ministry. Our shared programs as Mennonite Church Canada are funded by the Regional Churches each contributing a percentage of our congregational and individual giving. This covenant creates a close working relationship among the regions, and helps us to support our congregations more effectively, living into our conviction that the congregation is the primary locus of the church's life and ministry.

## Joint Council

Mennonite Church Canada is governed by a Joint Council. Each region has two members on the Council: the regional moderator and one member-at-large. The Executive Minister of Mennonite Church Canada, the national moderator, the vice-moderator, and the secretary/treasurer make up the balance of the Council. The Executive Ministers Group advises Joint Council, which meets 3-4 times per year.

## Executive Ministers Group (EMG)

The ESG is comprised of all the Executive Ministers: five regional and one national. This is a critical working group in our nationwide church which meets at least monthly for collaboration and to advise the Mennonite Church Canada Executive Minister.

## Other nationwide groups meeting regularly:

- Finance, Policy, and Audit Committee: the secretary/treasurer and other appointees
- Sustainability Leadership Group: representatives from Joint Council and ESG plus regional reps, focused on environmental sustainability for Mennonite Church Canada
- Church Leadership Ministers: regional Leadership Ministers plus the Executive Minister
- Communicators: regional communicators plus the nationwide Communications Coordinator

## Nationwide Gatherings

- Every Regional Church gathering includes nationwide agenda
- Mennonite Church Canada delegates meet annually for business agenda
- Mennonite Church Canada delegates meet biannually (see below) with interested leaders and representatives from all churches to learn, discuss, worship, and build community

# Mennonite Church Canada

Doug Klassen, Exectutive Minister,  
600 Shaftesbury Blvd. Winnipeg, MB  
R3P OM4 204-888-6781

*National Moderator*  
Geraldine Balzer (Saskatchewan)

*Joint Council Manitoba reps*  
Gerald Gerbrandt (MCM Moderator) (Bethel) Complet-  
ing term early  
Andrea De Avila (Appointed) (Sargent) Completed Term

*Nominating Committee*  
Randy Hildebrand (Springstein) 2024

Mennonite Church Canada Biannual Gathering delegates:

- six regional board members including the moderator
- five other delegates including the regional member-at-large on Joint Council
- plus one more delegate per 1000 church members, rounded up to the nearest thousand



In mid-November I attended a workshop in Mennonite Church Eastern Canada entitled the “Wheat and Weeds Challenge.” Presenter Robert (Jack) Suderman, former General Secretary of Mennonite Church Canada asked us the question “why?” Why do we go to all this effort to gather as faith communities? Why do we think that any effort on our part is going to change the trajectory of this world?

With the ongoing difficulties of the pandemic, record high inflation, and instability in our health care and education systems, it’s easy to frame church as just another bottomless pit sucking away our time and energy. Also tugging on our heart strings are the ongoing discoveries of unmarked graves found at Indian Residential School sites, the war in Ukraine, climate crisis. It can all get overwhelming.

Indeed, listening only to the news suggests our efforts are not changing the trajectory of the world at all. But despair not! Jesus’ first words in the gospel of Mark are, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe the good news.” In other words, “Change your minds, refocus, the reign of God is arriving!”

I want to share with you some of this good news — news you won’t learn from the major networks in their year-end highlight reels of 2022.

Witness workers Werner and Joanne De Jong overcame several hurdles with visa issues to serve Meserete Kristos Seminary in Ethiopia with their teaching gifts. We are again dipping our toes into youth service opportunities, with Sarah Wood helping teach English to children in Thailand under the guidance of Tom and Christine Poovong. Bock Ki Kim (Sook Kyoung Park) facilitated peaceful conflict resolution for 18 middle school classes in a Seoul school. Gerald and Rie Neufeld are in Japan to reconnect and revitalize churches there. Nor will you find news about how the Palestine Israel Network, with representatives from four regional churches, are hosting speakers to challenge beliefs about living in that part of the world.

No radio stations will report that our church regions are embracing the journey of reconciliation with Indigenous

peoples and eco-harm with the help of the newly appointed Jonathan Neufeld (Indigenous Relations Coordinator), and Sandy Plett (Climate Action Coordinator).



Indigenous elder Jerlina (centre) speaks to Dann Nor will they and Joji Pantoja, Witness workers in the Philippines.

review Neil and Edith von Gunten’s book of uplifting stories of learning from and with Indigenous peoples in their four-plus decades of ministry with MC Canada (*WalkingTogether*).

You won’t see news on any major TV networks that CommonWord this year has enriched the lives of thousands with over 25,000 sales, loans, and downloads of resources, equipping more and more people to bring good news.

Our Mennonite Church Canada statement of purpose and identity reminds us of our calling. “God calls, equips and sends the church to engage the world with the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

Because of this, all that you will read in the pages following, all that you will read about CommonWord, Indigenous Relations, International Witness, Climate Action and what you will read in the work of your Regional Churches are anchored in these words. What you will see and hear at your regional AGM’s will also reflect these words.

May you be encouraged to imagine your life and the life of your congregation in the future of God’s coming reign.

Doug Klassen  
Executive Minister







# CommonWord

Bookstore and Resource Centre

CommonWord is your bookstore and resource centre, a nationwide ministry of Mennonite Church Canada and Canadian Mennonite University. We are here for you!

Looking for a small group study, worship resource or an inspirational read? We can help connect you with Anabaptist and related materials – to buy, borrow or access online – that inspire, provoke, equip, and engage.

Here are a few services that help make Anabaptist resources accessible to you:

- A website ([www.commonword.ca](http://www.commonword.ca)) with over 14,000 materials, easily searched by keyword or scripture text
- Borrowed items ship free – to your home and back to Winnipeg
- Online resources are free to listen, view, download or read
- Retail products are competitively priced

In the past year we have helped worship leaders, teachers, small group leaders, pastors, treasurers, deacons, musicians, other congregational volunteers, and avid readers of all ages, in addition to our regular and Christmas gift shoppers. As of November 23, 2022, we have processed nearly 700 online retail orders, 5,800 in-store purchases, 2,200 loans, and 18,000 downloads. Thank you for your engagement!

What might you find at CommonWord? This only scratches the surface, but here are several resource lists (based on our search filters):

- [Visual \(Type\) resources](#) – In addition to our Print, Video and Audio materials, we are adding visual resources for personal and congregational use. Perhaps you want to contribute to our [Visio Divina](#) project?
- [Parts of Worship](#) (Genre) – This is a large Genre within our collection that includes hundreds of complete worship services and thousands of related materials (calls to worship, prayers, sermons, etc.). We are grateful to partner with Together in Worship in gathering [free Anabaptist digital materials](#). Perhaps you have an original worship resource to contribute?
- [Narrative/Novel/Story](#) (Expression) – Another large collection, including biblical retellings, biography, fiction, and other titles.
- [Lent](#) (Church Season) – Worship, study, devotional and family resources for the coming Lenten season in the church year.
- [Creation Care](#) (Topic) – Includes many resources specific to the critical issue of climate change/action.
- [CommonWordKids](#) (Audience) – Hundreds of illustrated children's books for the pre- and early-reader.
- [Korean](#) (Language) – All resources are filterable by language.

To learn more about how to access our resources and use our filters, please view a [short video tutorial](#) of our website. You may, of course, also contact us directly with any question.

We are grateful for the church and university's ongoing

ing commitment to Christian formation. Thank you for your continued trust as we bring you resources to strengthen the church. Please remain in touch by calling 1-877-846-1593 or e-mailing [info@commonword.ca](mailto:info@commonword.ca). Follow us on Facebook and Instagram. Subscribe to our bi-weekly Curator email. Embed our RSS feeds on your congregation's website. Keep reading!

Submitted by Arlyn Friesen Epp  
Director, CommonWord Bookstore and  
Resource Centre  
[afriesenepp@commonword.ca](mailto:afriesenepp@commonword.ca)



## International Witness

*He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?  
- Micah 6:8*

Mennonite Church Canada's Witness program is not splashy. We don't often shout about it from the rooftops. In fact, it might be the best kept secret of MC Canada! But in many corners of the world, together with our global family of faith, we are part of a movement that invites people to justice, kindness, and a humble relationship with God. We are witnesses of God's mission in the world, restoring relationships and building peace. As the Peace-Builders Community in Mindanao, Philippines describes it, following Jesus brings harmony.

Building transformative relationships in meaningful ways takes time, takes presence. Witness workers live this daily and consistently: Werner and Joanne De Jong teaching at the Meserete Kristos Seminary in Ethiopia, Bock Ki Kim and Sook Kyoung Park building peace networks and church planting in South Korea, Dann and Joji Pantoja developing peace and reconciliation teams together with income generation, and Tom and Chris-

tine Poovong (with children Phim and Joseph) supporting a growing network of Jesus followers with leadership training and income generation in Thailand.

Witness workers are only present in 4 out of the 15 countries where we have active partnerships. A new category of resident bridge builders called "Relationship Catalysts" started officially this year as Gerald and Rie Neufeld moved to Japan and began to strengthen the relationship between MC Canada and Tokyo Area Fellowship of Mennonite Churches. We hope to appoint more relationship catalysts in the future to deepen our relationship with the global family of faith.

After some years of hiatus, Witness has resumed calling young people into cross-cultural internships with Sarah Wood spending six months living and learning in rural Thailand. Serving in a small Christian school is providing her with opportunities and challenges that will build cross cultural skills, leadership capacity and faith formation. Watch for more opportunities in the next year!

Bethlehem Bible College speaking tours brought Palestinian theologians into our schools, congregations, and community in the Winnipeg area. There were also conversations

with Indigenous and Palestinian theologians on issues of land and people. Watch for an opportunity to hear from Palestinian theologians coming to your area in 2023.

Another exchange of college faculty is happening as Conrad Grebel University College and MC Canada signed an agreement

to use some of their faculty resources in international settings. Derek Suderman spent several weeks in Thailand teaching Old Testament courses.

The networks of supporting congregations are important



Sarah Wood



Source: [www.Peacebuilderscommunity.org](http://www.Peacebuilderscommunity.org)

witnesses to what God is doing in the world. I appreciate the congregations who have committed to these relationships. Several learning tours to Thailand and Philippines this year meant that some of these partners could meet face to face for the first time. Learning from each other, enjoying new experiences and seeing first-hand what God is doing in other places and cultures is an important part of faith formation in our communities. When we see God through the eyes of siblings in faith who are different from us, we get a broader picture of who God is.

Where is God transforming relationships to build harmony in you, in your community, in your world? You and your congregations can get involved with global partners and discover how God will transform you. Contact your Regional Church Engagement staff for more information.

Submitted by Jeanette Hanson  
Director, International Witness  
[jhanson@mennonitechurch.ca](mailto:jhanson@mennonitechurch.ca)



## Indigenous Relations

Greetings Church! As a community minister for Seattle Mennonite Church over the past 15 years, I had the regular privilege of welcoming volunteers who engaged with people experiencing injustice. I would often say that they should be ready to be surprised by the welcome and trust that community members would immediately extend. This welcome is rooted in the trust and presence seeded by all the efforts that have gone before them. While they are present, whether it is a day or a year, people are inheriting this trusted memory and adding their own good intentions and actions to strengthen these relationships. We are all just stepping into a stream that has been flowing before we showed up and will continue to flow after we have stepped away.

In that same spirit, I am struck (but not surprised) by the expressions of blessing, gratitude, openness, connection and collaboration I have received – even in just the first few weeks of inhabiting the role of Indigenous Relations Coordinator. It is a testimony to the trusted relationships formed by passionate and gifted people who have represented MC Canada in this way.

I have been focusing on connecting with the Executive Ministers and Regional Indigenous Relations Working Groups of our church in these early days, hearing about common concerns and questions we are facing as we seek to walk the path of reconciliation with Indigenous neighbours. The

coming weeks will be spent introducing and connecting with national and ecumenical partners who are aligned with Indigenous priorities for action and change. I am excited to offer myself in this role, adding to the story of respectful engagement with Indigenous communities that co-conspirators now and in coming generations can pick up and continue to embody.

Submitted by Jonathan Neufeld  
Indigenous Relations Coordinator  
[jneufeld@mennonitechurch.ca](mailto:jneufeld@mennonitechurch.ca)



## Climate Action

The journey to this work as Climate Action Coordinator has been an interesting one! I grew up loving the outdoors, being a thrifty shopper and a gardener. In recent years, my passion for the church and growing concern about climate change led me to explore my personal role in the struggle for climate justice. I began looking for ways that I could lend my gifts and skills to the work.

Through the ecumenical initiative called [For the Love of Creation](#), I started leading Faithful Climate Conversations locally. These guided discussions help participants move through anxieties and experiences of climate crisis and consider ways that they might take action. This work led me to get involved with the Mennonite Church Manitoba Climate Action Working Group in 2021, and now and as Climate Action Coordinator for Mennonite Church Canada.

I hope to facilitate connections between the regions of MC Canada around the important and diverse work of addressing the climate crisis. Across the country, groups within our church families are working at this in different ways. I'm excited to lift the themes and threads of this work into the light, and share them with all of you.

I'm eager to learn what shape climate action is taking in your church, and in your region. What a gift to be able to support and encourage the hands and feet of Christ in this way!

Submitted by Sandy Plett  
Climate Action Coordinator  
[splett@mennonitechurch.ca](mailto:splett@mennonitechurch.ca)



---

## **The MENNONITE CHURCH BRITISH COLUMBIA (MCBC) Story Submitted to the Nationwide Regional Churches for 2022**

*“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.” 1 John 4:7-8*

2022 has been a year of delayed expectations for MCBC. In September 2021 Garry Janzen announced his plans to retire as Executive Minister around the time of his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday in July 2022. A fantastic search task group was formed. They did thorough preparations of the understandings that would guide the search for a new Executive Minister. As the search got underway, applications were received, but none of them worked out. Garry extended his intended retirement date, eventually settling on the end of 2022. The second round of searching began in the fall of 2022. Again, applications were received. At the time of writing this report, mid-December 2022, there is hope. Yet, it has become clear that we will not have a new Executive Minister by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. In response, Kevin Barkowsky will adjust his halftime position as Church Engagement Minister to include being Interim Executive Minister, with expectations that this could be a 3-6 month role.

As we wait for God’s purposes to be worked out, we trust in God’s love to lead the way. God is love, and God calls us to love one another according to this love (1 John 4:7-21). We continue in faithfulness and obedience as agents of God’s love, trusting that as we wait, God’s best will be revealed in due time.

In 2021 a new structure for MCBC was presented to the AGM, which received its final approval at the 2022 AGM. Task Groups have grown, and others have been formed. There is much that our people have said they care about and want to act on, and the work of our task groups reflects these interests. Our task groups are too numerous to name them all here. We give thanks for our Ministry Leaders: Andrew Haak (Cultivating Anabaptist Vision), Henry Krause (Engaging God’s World) and Isaías Rodriguez (Growing Community). They report on the work in their ministry area quarterly. As Leadership Board members they also help with giving overall direction to MCBC.

As a Nationwide Mennonite Church, we have said that the local congregation is the foundational unit of the church. In MCBC it has been brought to our attention that we still need to figure out how the participants in our task groups can help their congregations embrace the work of the task groups they are in. One of our congregations took a Sunday to celebrate the work of MCBC and their people who are involved. This gave the MCBC Executive Minister opportunity to preach and speak about MCBC; it also gave Task Group and Leadership Board participants from the congregation the opportunity to talk about what they do. Each of our congregations is encouraged to do something like this.

The work that we do together nationwide and globally is represented in our Engaging God’s World ministry area. We are thankful for the partnership we have in order to be able to do ministry that we each would not be able to do on our own. In MCBC we are thankful for the growing connection we are building with Evangelical Mennonite Church Vietnam. This is a relationship through MC Canada and the North American Vietnamese Evangelical Fellowship and is an extension of our relationship with the Vietnamese congregations we have in MCBC.

The 2023 MCBC Annual Gathering will be at Peace Mennonite Church in Richmond on February 25<sup>th</sup>; it will also be available for Livestream viewing. We will be having a LEAD Conference Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup> – Mark Baker from Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary will be speaking on themes from his new book, Centered-Set Church. New information regarding the future of the former Clearbrook Mennonite Church property will be presented at this gathering.

Our congregations continue to seek ways to thrive, especially as we come out of the pandemic. North Shore Japanese Church has not managed to do so, and is closing at the end of 2022. Bethel Mennonite Church in Langley withdrew its affiliation with MCBC as of June 30, 2022. We give thanks for the faithfulness of these congregations.

May we be filled with love in whatever circumstances we find ourselves, and may we find our way to amazing ministry opportunities as we work together in God’s Kingdom activities.



## ANNUAL REPORT 2022

BOX 1839, PINCHER CREEK, AB T0K1W0

WWW.MCAB.CA



*Executive Committee* Brenda Tiessen-Wiens *Moderator* Peter Sang *Vice-Moderator* Wayne Janz *Finance* Elizabeth Wall *Secretary* Tim Wiebe-Neufeld *Executive Minister*

## MCA is...

- **12** congregations worshipping in 5 languages
- **900** members and **1300** church participants
- **22** pastors, credentialed leaders, and year-round ministry staff
- **5** regions in covenant as MC Canada, our nationwide family of **225** congregations
- part of Mennonite World Conference, which includes **109** national churches from **59** countries

## MCA's Vision is...

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

MCA Constitution

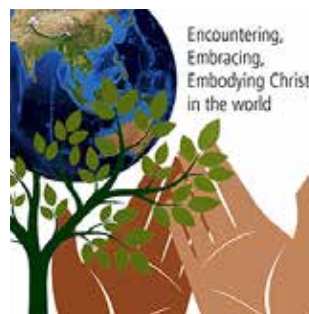
## Reflections on an amazing year!

The headline read, "So long, 2022, let us hope 2023 will be better."

Every New Year's it's the same thing: newspapers, comic pages, and blog posts emphasize the negative as they reflect on the year that was. Lists of the year's top news events are filled with stories of disaster. New Year's resolutions focus thoughts on our personal inadequacies. The turning of the calendar is seen as turning toward a future that couldn't possibly be as bad as what we just went through. It is such a pattern that on January 3<sup>rd</sup> a satirical news website offered that Canadians were already giving up on 2023, choosing to pin their hopes on 2024 instead!

As I reflect back on 2022 I see many aspects that were difficult and challenging. But **I also see so many positives – so many ways God's spirit of healing and hope was present in the world in real and tangible ways:**

- The ebbing of the COVID pandemic allowed MCA's congregations to reconnect as communities in ways that had not been possible for nearly two years. A highlight for me was the in-person **Gathering** of our Mennonite Church Canada faith family in Edmonton this past summer.
- The **calling of pastoral leadership** for Foothills, Holyrood, Bethel, and First Mennonite Edmonton; the calling of volunteers and staff both young and old to the ministry at Camp Valaqua; and the calling of many others in service of congregations and the broader ministries we share.
- The living out of the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of MCA's action plan: **Encountering, Embracing, Embodying Christ in the World**. As congregations reconnect and reset, many are looking for ways to be more present in their local communities. Globally, International Witness continues to build the church in 15 countries. This includes pastor supports and training in Thailand and Ethiopia. MCA is also funding pastor training for 2 church leaders from South Sudanese refugee camps.
- Seeing efforts made towards peace and wholeness of relationship in a world torn by division, injustice, and environmental destruction. **MCA's Bridge Building Facilitator** is nurturing intercultural and interfaith relationships, while our nationwide church has invested in staff to assist in caring for creation and building relationships with Indigenous people.



As people of faith we long for a future when God's healing and restoration will be made real for all creation. Yet that hope is built on the way we have seen God at work in the past, even through times of hardship and challenge. We see hope shining through in the highs and lows of the biblical story, we see it in the history of the church and MCA congregations, and we see it in our lives in so many ways--even in the year that was.

Throughout all that recent years has brought, the ministries we share as MCA have continued to build the church. As we look back, may we recognize the many ways God has been with us, even as we anticipate God's presence in the future to come. And may we look forward to God's provision, creativity, and inspiration as we seek to be the People God is calling us to be!



Tim Wiebe-Neufeld, *Executive Minister, MCA*



Pastors Council Retreat November 2022

## MCA Priorities are...

### Supporting Congregations

- **5** new pastors called to serve in 4 congregations
- **4** pastors newly credentialed
- **1** congregation provided financing for an interim pastor team
- **8** students received bursaries for Canadian Mennonite University
- over **30,000** resources accessed through CommonWord
- **4** in-person and **3** zoom meetings of Pastors Council
- **1** Pastor's Council Retreat at Camp Valaqua
- **1** Spiritual Leaders Day at the MC Canada Gathering



### Nurturing Connections

- **446** MCA households received the Canadian Mennonite nationwide magazine
- **207** received the weekly newsletter the MCA Communique
- **225** attended MC Canada's Gathering in Edmonton and **50+** attended online.
- **133** youth, volunteers and staff attended Amplify at Camp Valaqua
- **2** MCA young adults took part in the Youth Leaders Experience at Gathering
- **82** attended the MCA delegate sessions in March, while hundreds attended the Sunday worship
- **1** young adult sponsored to attend the Global Youth Summit and MWC Assembly in Indonesia

### Celebrating Faith in Action

- near capacity summer camps at **Camp Valaqua**, and **over 1500** people served through year-round rentals
- Suzanne Gross hired as the new Bridge Building Facilitator, to nurture interfaith and intercultural connections
- nationwide programs focused on Indigenous Relations and Climate Action
- International Witness relationships in **15** countries, with huge impact including:
  - Ethiopia, where Werner DeJong taught **150** students at Meserete Kristos Seminary and Joanne preached in chapels and offered community support
  - South Sudanese refugee camps, where **2** church leaders received support to attend MKS to train as pastors for their home communities
  - Thailand, where Tom and Christine Poovong lead **43** worshipping groups and **60** outreach centres





## Mennonite Church Saskatchewan 2022 Annual Report

Mennonite Church Saskatchewan (MC Sask) is a family of 22 congregations, covenanted together as Christ Centred & Sent. We prayerfully support one another, joining together in ministry alongside the other congregations of Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite World Conference, trusting that as we do God's healing and hope flows through us to all the world.

*The mountains may move  
and the hills disappear,  
but my faithful love for you will remain.  
My covenant of peace will never be broken. Isaiah 54:10*



January 2022 welcomed MC Sask into a season of many changes. Longtime leaders moved into new ministries (**Ryan Siemens**) or into a season of intense parenting (**Kirsten Hamm-Epp**). Meanwhile, others began new roles, **Zach Dueck** as Interim Youth Leader and **Josh Wallace** as Interim Executive Minister. Office Administrator **Marianne Siemens** and moderator **Terry Stefaniuk** put in extra hours as anchors of continuity and stability.



Our congregations, too, were in the midst of change. As COVID-19 continued to shift, some congregations found themselves with renewed for new projects while others faced anew questions of longterm sustainability. Many found themselves somewhere in-between. At the close of January 2022, **Grace MC** in Prince Albert gathered for a final worship service before gifting their building to Parkland Restorative Justice.

In March, we were welcomed by **Youth Farm Bible Camp** and online for our Annual Delegate Sessions, centred on our congregations *Called to Here*. Pastor Preston Pouteaux helped frame our work of discernment and decisions within God's joyful presence among our neighbors in the communities where we make our homes.



MC Sask affirmed the calls of **Kevin Koop (Carrot River MC)** and **Rachel Wallace (Eigenheim MC)**, joining with their congregations to ordain them to pastoral ministry. We rejoiced together with **North Star MC** in the conclusion of the faithful service of **Dan Graber** and in the appointment of **Lisa Martens Bartel** as Pastoral Leader. Likewise, we gave thanks for the years of faithful ministry by **Nora Pederberg** at **Osler MC** and for the installation of **Luke Bushman** as Pastor of Faith and Community at **Osler MC** and **Nutana Park MC**.

Gatherings in the summer months renewed our connections to the nationwide and global body of Jesus. We were grateful for **Nora Pederberg** stepping in to be MC Sask's delegate to the Mennonite World Conference's Global Youth Summit and Assembly in Indonesia. We supported together 13 delegates to carry the hopes and perspectives to MC Canada's Gathering 2022 in Edmonton. **Mel Harms** led an enthusiastic group of MC Sask youth in participating in the nationwide **Amplify** youth gathering. These events open pathways for our congregations to join in solidarity, action, praise, and prayer with sisters and brothers in Christ nearby and around the world.



This year MC Sask has sought to resource congregations for local ministry and collaboration through a few new initiatives. Our March ADS approved a Camping Ministry Study to review and strengthen our shared ministry through MC Sask's three camps (**Camp Elim**, **Youth Farm Bible Camp**, and **Shekinah Retreat Center**). The newly developed Climate Emergency Response Team (CERT) is developing resources and proposals to help congregations live in faith and faithful action for the good of all creation. And in November we welcomed Dr Sylvia Keesmaat to resource congregational leaders as they preach and reflect on Scripture in changing times.

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



**Mennonite Church Eastern Canada**  
201 - 50 Kent Avenue,  
Kitchener ON, N2G 3R1  
Telephone: Local 226-476-2500  
Toll Free 855-476-2500  
Website: [www.mcec.ca](http://www.mcec.ca)

## 2022 IN REVIEW

**WE ARE A DIVERSE COMMUNITY,  
TRANSFORMED BY THE LOVE OF GOD,  
INSPIRED BY THE HOPE WE FIND IN JESUS,  
CALLED TO ACTION BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

### MCEC DELEGATES EMBRACE NEW IDENTITY AND PRIORITY STATEMENTS

Over 300 people gathered at the 2022 Annual Church Gathering and enthusiastically adopted new identity and priority statements to guide us into who God is calling us to be. Thanks be to God!

### SEVEN CONGREGATIONS AND 25 PASTORS WELCOMED INTO MCEC

The new provisional congregations welcomed at the Annual Church Gathering are Centre Béthésda Mennonite de Québec, Burning Bush Forest Church, Église de Dieu Réparateur des Brèches, Église Mennonite Agape, Goshen Mennonite Church and The Meeting Place. Meheret Evangelical Church moved to full membership in MCEC. Twenty-five ministers were installed and welcomed into MCEC as ministering persons with a service of installation and a signing of a covenant of ethics in ministry.

### ANN SCHULTZ BEGINS AS INTENTIONAL INTERIM EXECUTIVE TEAM LEADER

Beginning in January 2023, Ann begins her part-time role with a focus on supporting the MCEC staff team and to developing a broader understanding of and commitment to the strategic priorities 2022-2027. The MCEC executive council now also begins the process of searching for an executive minister, in order to have a permanent executive minister begin in January 2024.

### MESERETE KRISTOS SEMINARY OPENS MULTIPURPOSE HALL

Mennonite Church Canada joined Meserete Kristos Church in celebrating with it's Seminary. After two years of construction, the new kitchen and dining room in the Multipurpose Hall at the Seminary are open! The hall, which seats 1,000 people, is now being used for educational conferences, seminars, workshops, weddings and other events. Thanks be to God!

**WE COME TOGETHER AS A REGIONAL CHURCH TO:**

**ENERGIZE CONGREGATIONS, ENCOURAGE LEADERS, EMBODY GOD'S RECONCILING MINISTRY**

## AT A GLANCE

### MCEC Community of Congregations

- 105 congregations
- 83 full membership
- 21 provisional membership
- 1 long-term church plant
- Worship in 20 languages

### Supporting Pastors & Congregational Leaders

- 5 pastors ordained
- 1 pastor transferred ordination
- 3 pastors licensed
- 36 pastors installed
- 3 Transitioning into Ministry (TiM) graduates
- 41 Admin Day participants from across Canada
- 57 pastors supporting each other through 5 online Pastoral Conversations

### Supporting Congregations

- Innovate – resourcing to 13 MCEC congregations
- 3 active working groups
  - Truth & Reconciliation
  - Palestine Israel Network
  - Sustainability

### Congregational Transitions

- New Provisional Congregations
  - Centre Béthésda Mennonite de Québec
  - Burning Bush Forest Church
  - Église de Dieu Réparateur des Brèches
  - Église Mennonite Agape
  - Goshen Mennonite Church
  - The Meeting Place
- Full Membership Congregation
  - Meheret Evangelical Church

### Church Plants

- 3 Online resourcing days for Church Planters
  - 56 Church Planters in Ancaster (Spring)
  - 44 Church Planters in Montreal (Fall)
  - 24 Church Planters in Toronto (Fall)



**Left:** Doug Klassen, MC Canada, gives Norm Dyck, MCEC, a piece of the official ribbon at the grand opening of the Multipurpose Hall at Meserete Kristos Seminary.

**Right:** Montreal Mennonite Fellowship on ecotheology retreat reflected on how they would take of the world. This was one of four retreats Wendy Janzen, MCEC Eco-Minister, led this past year.



## Report to Mennonite Church Manitoba

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.

Our programs integrate academics, spiritual formation and practice. Join us — in person or at a distance, full time or part time — and deepen your understanding of Scripture, faith and Anabaptist theology!

### Degrees and programs (\* = distance-friendly program)

- Master of Divinity\*
- Master of Arts in Christian Formation
- Master of Arts: Theology and Peace Studies
- Master of Arts: Theology and Global Anabaptism\*
- Graduate Certificate in Spiritual Direction\*
- Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies\* (fully customizable)
- Doctor of Ministry in Leadership\*
- Journey Missional Leadership Development Program\* (undergraduate-level, nondegree)

[ambs.ca/degrees-and-programs](https://ambs.ca/degrees-and-programs)

We offer generous need-based financial aid, scholarships and matching grants for both full- and part-time graduate students. See also benefits for Canadian students: [ambs.ca/canadian-students](https://ambs.ca/canadian-students)

### Leadership and enrichment

Grow your ministry skills and gain Anabaptist approaches to today's leadership challenges through our nondegree offerings. (\* = distance-friendly program)

#### Short-term options

- Online Short Courses\*: four to six weeks, discussion-based, noncredit
- Invite AMBS\*: request a speaker (in person or virtual) on a topic of your choice
- Pastors & Leaders conference\*: Feb. 19–22, 2024
- !Explore: A Theological Program for High School Youth (summer)

#### Yearlong offerings

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

[ambs.ca/leadership-and-enrichment](https://ambs.ca/leadership-and-enrichment)



(Credit: Jason Bryant)

### Regional church connections

- **Board member:** Rachel Siemens (First–Winnipeg)

### AMBS statistics

- In 2022–23, 141 graduate students are enrolled at AMBS: 61 from the U.S., six from Canada and 74 international students. The undergraduate-level Journey program has 16 participants from the U.S., Canada and Uganda.
- In 2021–22, 75% of graduate student tuition costs were covered by need-based financial aid and scholarships.
- In April 2022, 14 women and seven men from seven countries — Canada, Ethiopia, Honduras, Indonesia, Nigeria, Tanzania and the U.S. — graduated from AMBS (see above). Ten completed part or all of their studies at a distance.

### Want to try out seminary?

- Sign up for an Online Short Course (no grades, no papers!):
  - Exploring Peace and Justice in the Bible
  - Exploring Anabaptist History and Theology
  - Understanding Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture
  - Transforming Congregational Conflict and Communication
  - Resisting Christian Nationalism with the Gospel of Peace

[ambs.ca/online-short-courses](https://ambs.ca/online-short-courses)

- Take a graduate-level course — online or on campus. Nonadmitted students get 50% off tuition for their first three credit hours! [ambs.ca/upcoming-courses](https://ambs.ca/upcoming-courses)
- Schedule a virtual or in-person visit. Talk with students, faculty and staff and learn what AMBS has to offer! [ambs.ca/visit](https://ambs.ca/visit)
- Stay connected: [facebook.com/followAMBS](https://facebook.com/followAMBS) • [twitter.com/ambs\\_seminary](https://twitter.com/ambs_seminary) • [ambs.ca/subscribe](https://ambs.ca/subscribe)



## THE BETHANIA GROUP

"Bethania, a Mennonite Organization, provides compassionate, outstanding long term care and affordable housing for seniors."

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change... Psalm 46:1-2a*

As we look back on yet another difficult year in our mission to provide compassionate, outstanding long-term care and affordable housing to seniors, we see that God has indeed been a very present help in this time of trouble. As an organization, we continue to trust God's goodness and faithfulness throughout this pandemic. Even amid the outbreaks and challenges of this year, we experienced tremendous support from families and our faith communities, as well as glimmers of hope that this pandemic will not last forever.

COVID outbreaks in hospitals and PCHs continued from October 2021 into February 2022, and then again during the summer of 2022 through to the fall. The outbreaks in 2022 have been attributed to the omicron variants, which emerged in early winter 2022. These were much more resistant to existing vaccines than the delta variant. From December 2021 to September 2022, we experienced one COVID outbreak at Pembina Place MPCH and three at Bethania MPCH. Although these outbreaks were challenging for our residents, families, and staff, these variants tend to have a significantly lower death rate and the symptoms tend to be less severe. Despite the lessened impact of the omicron variants, we still experienced four resident deaths due to the effects of the virus. Since then, we have been able to administer the bivalent COVID vaccine to residents. This vaccine is expected to provide better protection against the current omicron variants than the original vaccine.

The outbreaks and changing protocols have placed great pressure on staff. COVID protocols, including use of full PPE, caring for ill residents, delivering meals to resident rooms, isolating residents on their wings, and the suspension of group programming made delivery of care more challenging. During the outbreaks, health care aids and nursing staff provided exceptional care. As COVID-related and general sick leave increased, staff were often asked or mandated to work overtime to ensure resident to staff ratios were maintained. This also increased the burden on the HR department, who had to address staffing shortages and the single site staffing mandate. Recreation staff and chaplains were also required to adjust their work to meet the needs of residents on a one-to-one basis while all group programming was suspended. Staff are feeling fatigued after two and a half years of the pandemic. In the next year, it will be important for our senior management to take concrete measures to help

our staff and ourselves heal after this ordeal and to recreate an environment of normalcy in our work.

While many areas of life have moved away from pandemic restrictions and toward pre-pandemic norms, life in PCH settings continues to be more restricted. We have continued to hold virtual memorial services for families of residents who have died. Although not as significant as the in-person memorials we used to hold, these virtual services remain an important way to remember our residents and to support their families. Although restrictions on visitors in PCHs continue, we are grateful that family members now have much more freedom to visit with residents. Face-to-face visits with family members are crucial for resident wellbeing and for addressing loneliness.

One high point this year was that we have been able to hold chapel services. Worship is important to many of our residents, and these services are critical for their spiritual wellbeing. We are grateful to the many pastors, lay leaders, musicians, and congregations who lead and support these services. At Bethania MPCH, we were also excited to begin welcoming congregations back to lead Sunday services. For residents who are used to going to church on Sundays, these services are an important return to greater normalcy.

We are deeply grateful for the support of family members and our faith communities over the past two and a half years. In the midst of many pandemic challenges, the encouragement we have received through staff meals, kind emails, and financial gifts to the Memorial Foundation has helped us to persevere in our work. Your care and support enable us to continue to care for and support our residents and tenants.

As we move into a new year, we pray that the worst of the pandemic is behind us. The lessons we have learned from COVID have prepared us for future outbreaks, as well as for other infectious diseases. And so, we move into 2023 with both caution and hope, trusting that the God who has carried us this far will continue to be our strength and our refuge.

Respectfully submitted for the Bethania Group,

Brigitte Kutasiewicz, Board Chair

Gary J. Ledoux, CEO

Kim Rempel Smith, Director of Spiritual Care / Chaplain



## A silver anniversary

Thanks be to God for 25 years of publishing a magazine focused on the people and churches of Mennonite Church Canada! *Canadian Mennonite* has been in print since 1953 but under different titles. In 1998, we launched this magazine in a covenant with the churches of Mennonite Church Canada. Thanks also to MC Manitoba for partnering with us as we share how God is at work in the Mennonite church family across the country.

After we published our special 25th anniversary issue in October, executive editor **Virginia Hostetler** retired. She had been in the position since 2017 and is succeeded by **Will Braun** who began his work in November.



Will served *CM* as a staff writer since 2012, providing thorough and thoughtful coverage on a variety of topics. In becoming editor, Will said, "Our priority is to connect with the passions and pains of readers, to ask lively questions, to find beautiful stories of faith within our pews and around the world."

Manitoba correspondent **Nicolien Klassen-Wiebe** tells some of those stories, publishing 40 articles and photos of the church in Manitoba in 2022. *CM*'s online media manager **Aaron Epp**, based in Winnipeg, also writes for the magazine and gave comprehensive coverage of the Mennonite World Conference Assembly in Indonesia last summer. *CM* welcomes your stories and ideas. Please contact Nicolien at [mb@canadianmennonite.org](mailto:mb@canadianmennonite.org).



We launched *CM* events in 2022 to offer a place for interactive and lively discussion on important issues. Manitoba was well-represented with Allegra Friesen Epp, a panelist at our October event on Indigenous-settler relations and

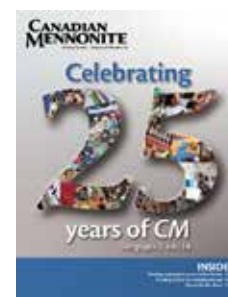
Moses Falco speaking at an event in November. *CM* events will continue in 2023. Plan to join us! Go to [canadianmennonite.org/events](http://canadianmennonite.org/events).

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

Hebrews 10: 24-25

## Canadian Mennonite in 2022

- Three *CM* events
- Four digital-only issues
- 22 print issues
- 118 stories and photos from Manitoba
- 967 articles about the church in Canada and beyond
- 5,500 followers on social media
- 9,500 subscribers
- 200,000 website visitors



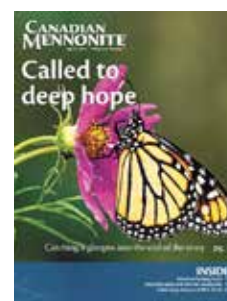
*Canadian Mennonite* is your magazine for reflecting on faith and connecting with the Mennonite Church Canada community. Through a magazine, website, social media and online events, we share news and talk about the important issues of our day. We are guided by Paul's letter to the Hebrews, exhorting the church to spur one another on to love and good deeds.

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

## Ways to connect

- **Subscribe** to get the magazine by mail, email or both: 26 issues per year (22 print plus 4 digital-only)
- **Sign up** for *CM Now*—a free, biweekly email service
- **Write** letters or web comments in response to articles.
- **Join** an online event ([canadianmennonite.org/events](http://canadianmennonite.org/events))
- **Follow us** on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

**Church administrators** send notices of births, baptisms, marriages and deaths to share with the church family. Send to: [milestones@canadianmennonite.org](mailto:milestones@canadianmennonite.org).



1-800-378-2524 [www.canadianmennonite.org](http://www.canadianmennonite.org)



@Canadian.Mennonite



@canmenno



@canadianmennonite



## CMU Mission

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

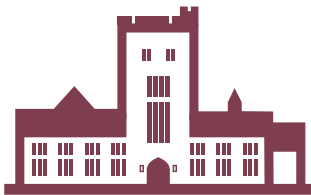
## 2022-23 Enrolment

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

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

**753 Total CMU FTE**

## Small university Big opportunities



### Why CMU?

Academic excellence

Professors know you

Work experience in every program

Faith and community matter

### For more information and connection to CMU:

View our Report to the Community at [cmu.ca/communityreport](https://cmu.ca/communityreport). Sign up for **Through this Place** our monthly e-newsletter for more stories and happenings at [cmu.ca/newsletter](https://cmu.ca/newsletter).

**cmu.ca**



## Greetings to Mennonite Church Manitoba

### Here's a glimpse into CMU classrooms this year:

**Introduction to Global Health** | Dr. Rachel Krause | Examines infectious and neglected tropical diseases, malnutrition and the nutrition transition, maternal and child health, and environmental health.

**Business and Sustainable Development Goals** | Dr. Jerry Buckland | Critically examines the UN's sustainable development goals as objectives to achieve human and environmental health.

**Graphic Design** | Craig Terlson | Studies the creative use of the elements and principles of design as applied to graphic communication, and of the use of symbols, pictographs, writing, and letter forms.

**Bible and Emotion** | Dr. John Boopalan | Asks if human flourishing today is better enabled in allowing the manifestation of the full range of human emotions in religious and public life.

**Disruptive Good News: The Church in Acts** | Dr. Shelia Klassen-Wiebe | Asks how the contemporary church can learn from and be challenged by the same disruptive Spirit found in the book of Acts.

**The Neuroscience of Social Behavior** | Dr. Delmar Epp | Explore the neural processes underlying important aspects of our social behavior, including neuroscience perspectives on person perception, the need to belong, intergroup relations, and aggression.

### Resourcing the church

**Xplore** | A lifelong learning program investigating dimensions of Christian faith, our world, and life. Spring session begins February 21, 2023. Visit [cmu.ca/xplore](https://cmu.ca/xplore).

**Graduate School of Theology and Ministry** | Study part time or full time, in person or online. Full scholarships for full time students available. Visit [cmu.ca/gstm](https://cmu.ca/gstm).

**ReNew** | Pastor and church leader conference, happens January 30-31, 2023. Visit [cmu.ca/renew](https://cmu.ca/renew).

*"Alongside its theological commitments, we also recognize and value the unique approach to academics and pedagogy that CMU embodies. We value its rigorous, dialogical, interdisciplinary, and deeply embodied way of knowing."*

– Letter from Hutterite students 2022





# 2022 COMMUNITY REPORT



Greetings from Eden Health Care Services!

Every day at Eden, across all our wrap-around mental health services, we bear witness to the resiliency of our clients and patients as we support them on their mental health recovery journey. The year 2022 will be remembered at Eden as a year when we, as an organization, faced a recovery journey of our

own. Our Eden Mental Health Centre was hit by a once-in-a-century rainstorm in late August that caused significant flooding and damage to our building, resulting in the evacuation of our in-patient unit for five weeks while clean up and restoration work began. In the same way that we see the resiliency of our clients as they take steps towards their healing, Eden was called upon to display resiliency as we walked through this challenging experience.

While we are currently back in our building at a reduced capacity, the process of repair and restoration continues with a hope of completion by summer of 2023. We were reminded once again that we engage in this sacred work together with the support and partnership of many: our patients and their families, staff, and community partners such as Southern Health-Santé Sud, Shared Health, Mental Health and Community Wellness department, Salem Home, and our governance group consisting of the Mennonite church conferences of Manitoba.

Eden is deeply appreciative of the support and prayers we received from the communities we serve. We are looking ahead to the upcoming year where we will focus on strategic planning and continued development of our hubs of mental health services in Steinbach and Winnipeg along with our primary hub in Winkler. Thank you for supporting our mission of providing hope, healing and community to those on their mental health journey.

Sincerely,  
Brad Unger  
CEO, Eden Health Care Services

## UPDATES FROM THE MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS OF EDEN



### EDEN HEALTH CARE SERVICES

*Provides management and shared services for the Eden programs*

- Provided oversight to all the Eden programs with combined budget of \$14.5 million and 160 staff members
- Celebrated one year since the opening of the Eden mental health services hub at the Eden East Mental Wellness Centre in Steinbach
- Closely partnered with Southern Health-Santé Sud to provide leadership to regional mental health programming as well as participation with provincial mental health leadership teams



### EDEN MENTAL HEALTH CENTRE

*Mental health hospital in Winkler as well as outpatient psychiatry consultation and Community Mental Health programming in partnership with Southern Health-Santé Sud*

- Patient numbers reduced during restoration work which includes repairing patient rooms, nursing station, dining area, and allied health assessment area
- Outpatient psychiatry consultation continued uninterrupted during our evacuation and demand grows steadily for this service with a 40% increase in referrals over the last four years
- Pathways Community Mental Health program, together with Southern Health-Santé Sud has expanded services through the addition of a psychologist and addiction support staff this last year



## EDEN HOUSING AND SUPPORTS

*Manages 145 housing units in Steinbach, Winkler, and Winnipeg. Housing options are on a continuum and include: group home, integrative supportive housing, independent living with mental health supports, or independent living*

- Completed 13 suite renovations and improvements to safety and security in Winkler and Steinbach housing units
- Established collaborative relationship with Eden Mental Health Centre and Community Mental Health Program to enhance the mental health program at our eight bed group home in Winkler
- Invested in a partnership with Riverwood Church in Winnipeg to offer Housing Support Services and clinical consultation to their new addictions recovery program at Riverwood House



## SEGUE CAREER OPTIONS

*Provides employment services for job seekers in and around the Winkler and Steinbach communities*

- Wellness U30 program provides life, work, and health support to young people ages 15-30 while they prepare to enter the job market
- Additional programs assist adults experiencing barriers to employment and persons with disabilities by offering vocational assessments, work experience placements, group sessions, and one-on-one support



## RECOVERY OF HOPE COUNSELLING

*Fee-for-service counselling therapy for individuals, couples, and families in Winnipeg, Winkler, Steinbach, Portage la Prairie, and Altona*

- Ongoing demand for counselling resulted in 20% increase in the number of Masters-level counselling therapists hired in the last two years
- Launched workshop series on topics including resiliency, collaborative parenting, and cognitive behavioural therapy with mindfulness (CBTm)
- Provides a *Sliding Fee Scale Program* for individuals from low-income households to receive discounts for counselling therapy with generous support from Eden Foundation, Winnipeg Foundation, and individual donors



## EDEN FOUNDATION

*Arms-length fundraising organization that raises funds to support Eden's mental health work in Manitoba*

- Raised over \$450,000 from fundraising events:
  - Winkler | Head for the Hills biking event, Tractor Trek, Caroling for a Cause
  - Steinbach | Tractor Trek & Peace Trek in partnership with Mennonite Heritage Village
  - Winnipeg | Ride for Recovery of Hope
- Provides critical support to Eden programs including Recovery of Hope's *Sliding Fee Scale Program* and church partnership CARE program, Eden Mental Health Centre's volunteer program, Segue Career Option's service delivery operations along with project funding for repairs/renovations to Eden Mental Health Centre and Eden Housing apartments

# Inter- Mennonite Chaplaincy Assoc.

Inter-Mennonite Chaplaincy Association (IMCA) is a ministry at the University of Manitoba Fort Garry campus, shared by three Mennonite conferences (EMC, EMMC, and MCM). IMCA serves students, faculty and staff by providing an Anabaptist presence and half time Chaplain on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in a space known as the “Menno Office”.

After losing our space on the lower level of the University Centre in spring of 2020 and meeting online for two years due to the pandemic, it is with great joy and gratitude that we are once again gathering in person. We have moved into a brighter and larger new space with a large window in room 524 on the fifth floor of the University Centre. There, the Menno Office serves as a vibrant part of the University’s Spiritual Care and Multi-faith Centre where we enjoy good and supportive relationships with our neighbours.

While the new space is much more inviting and better suited, the more remote fifth floor location has required of us to be even more intentional about helping new and returning students find their way to our space. See our new way-finding video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S5fOWrk6IoQ>. I am delighted to report that, already in the first half of this academic year, students who were part of the Menno Office community from before the pandemic, others who joined us online over the past two years and still others who are new to the University this fall, are gathering regularly to find friendship, support, and guidance in a welcoming Christian environment.

While many participants have connections to Mennonite churches, the ministry continues to attract students with other denominational ties as well as those who have no particular church affiliation but are drawn by the inviting atmosphere, the music, food and conversation. The ministry continues to draw local students as well as those with roots from as far as Asia, Africa and Latin America.

As was the case before the pandemic, much of what takes place in the office is unstructured. Students meet on Wednesday afternoons and Thursday mornings for “Menno Talk,” faith-based discussions addressing everyday topics of interest and concern to the students. Even during the unstructured times, faith related conversation or singing happen spontaneously in the office. Through these activities and atmosphere the Menno Office ministry fosters meaningful relationships where students experience peer support as well as pastoral care and the opportunity for pastoral counseling, also available to faculty and staff. This year I also offered marriage preparation sessions and was invited to officiate two student weddings.

Thank you for your ongoing support, financial gifts and prayers for this important campus ministry. Please continue to inform those you know who study or work at U of M of this opportunity for Christian fellowship, discipleship and support on campus.

Rev. Mark von Kampen  
Campus Chaplain  
524 University Centre  
204-474-9691  
[mvonkampen@gmail.com](mailto:mvonkampen@gmail.com)



Mark von Kampen  
*Campus Chaplain*

## MCC Manitoba 2022 | Report to MCM Gathering 2023

Thank you for being a part of MCC with your gifts and prayers! MCC was created as a worldwide ministry of Anabaptist churches, and we are so grateful for your support. Thank you for partnering with MCC in our shared mission of relief, development and peace in the name of Christ.

MCC Manitoba programs continue to equip and empower our communities — through Indigenous Neighbours partnerships, refugee resettlement which transforms the lives of newcomers and established Manitobans, the continued journey of peacebuilding and advocacy work, and the relationships and skills training for young adults at Sam's Place.

A highlight of our local programs this year has been the Abuse Response and Prevention Program, with significant efforts and attention drawn to how we and the church can better respond to and prevent abuse. Our co-coordinators, Jaymie Friesen and Valerie Hiebert were contributors to the new resource, *A Guide for Responding to Congregational Sexual Harassment and Abuse* and continue to support congregations in these challenging conversations. We are grateful for their compassion and expertise in walking alongside churches who are responding to and recovering from situations of abuse.



**Jakob Hildebrandt, 93, has volunteered at the Winkler MCC Thrift Shop for 25 years, repairing small equipment and appliance donations. Hildebrandt has longstanding connections to MCC which include being helped as a refugee emigrating to Canada during WW II, as well as MCC's Teachers Abroad Program (TAP). MCC photo/Josue Figueroa**

When Linie Friesen, Selma Loewen, Susan Giesbrecht and Sara Stoesz started what would become the first MCC Thrift Shop in Altona, Man., they never thought that MCC Thrift Shops would one day celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary! We are unendingly grateful to the gifts of those four women, and the thousands of volunteers who have followed in their footsteps, who together have raised over \$305 million for MCC programs.

Internationally, MCC is responding to disasters like in Ukraine, providing shelter, medications and food for people who are unable to flee the war, and to the hunger crisis in South Sudan. Our partners in Ukraine are working under increasingly difficult circumstances and covet your prayers as they support some of the most vulnerable.

Peacebuilding continues to be the foundation of our mission. From peace clubs in prisons, to weaving conflict resolution into relief distribution, our partners know the transformative power of this work. Including peace in all that we do creates a space where disaster response doesn't exacerbate local tensions, and development projects have wider and deeper benefits for a whole community.

As we look to the new year, we have much to be grateful for, and in changes that will come in 2023. MCC Manitoba anticipates moving to our new location at 140 Bannatyne Avenue in spring, and welcoming volunteers

to our new warehouse, customers to a fresh Sam's Place Café, and visitors to our offices. We are grateful for your support, and hope you can celebrate with us in our new home.

We continue to give thanks to the Creator for all of the gifts we have been given, including you our dear friends and churches. Thank you for partnering with MCC in our mission, and thanks be to God as our source of perseverance and love.

Grace and peace,

**SIMONE THIESSEN**  
CHURCH ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR

**WESLEY NCUBE**  
CONSTITUENCY RELATIONS COORDINATOR



## 2021-2022 Local Program highlights:

**220**

people participated in peacebuilding events and workshops related to healthy dialogue

**135**

refugees sponsored with support from 33 community and church sponsor groups

**35**

youth and young adults gained employable skills at Sam's Place

**1**

guide for responding to congregational sexual harassment and abuse published

**1**

book, *Germinating Conversations*, published in partnership with more than 250 copies sold

**13**

local partners received support — financial or collaborative — from the Indigenous Neighbours program

**12,000\***

training hours logged by Sam's Place program participants

\* Estimate

**170**

people participated in trainings, workshops and consultations with the Abuse Response & Prevention program

## 2021-2022 Manitoba Thrift highlights:

**16**

MCC Thrift shops served their communities and supported the work of MCC

**1,700+**

volunteers donated their time and talents in MCC Thrift shops

**302,000+**

volunteer hours donated in MCC Thrift shops throughout the province

**\$2.6 M**

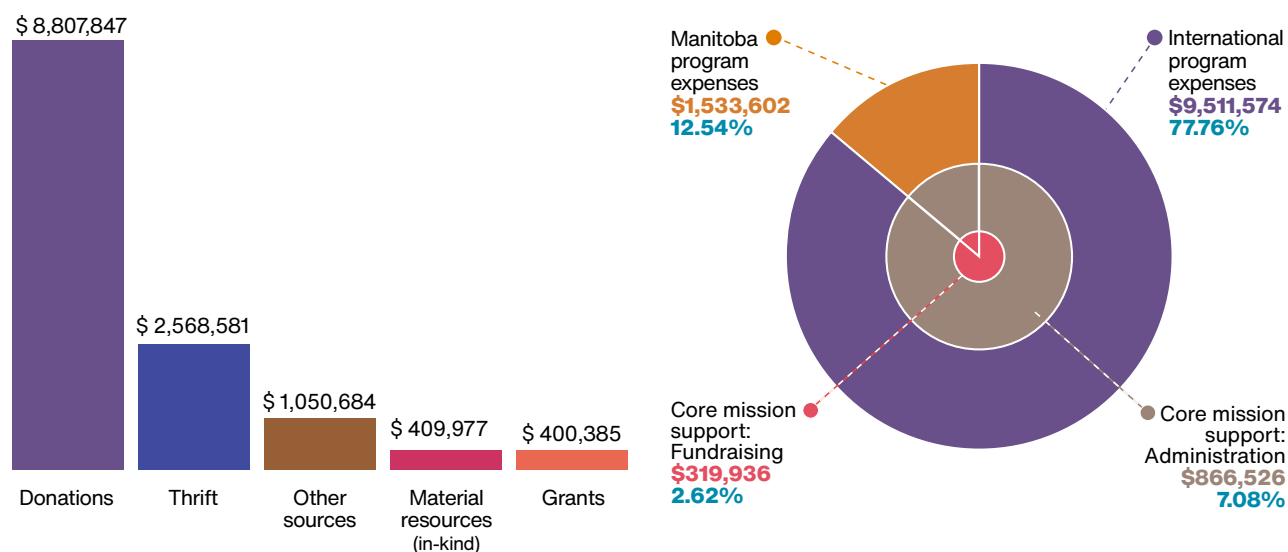
contributed to MCC's local and global relief, development and peace work

### TOTAL REVENUE:

**\$13,237,474**

### TOTAL EXPENSES:

**\$12,231,638**



*\*All activity in this report, including finances, reflects MCC's fiscal year from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022*

For the full report, visit [mccmb.ca/Annual-Impact-Report-2022](https://mccmb.ca/Annual-Impact-Report-2022)



# Mennonite Collegiate Institute

This was a year of both joy and struggle.

There were many things to celebrate in the past year. Deep social bonds formed among the students and the school was able to offer a strong educational experience despite the many rules and restrictions at the start of the year.

With the lifting of pandemic restrictions, we joyfully embraced the return of cherished activities: sharing lunch in the dining hall, participating in intercollegiate sports, and performing 'Matilda' the Musical! for nearly 2,000 live audience members. Saengerfest returned after a 3-year hiatus. We spent the last Sunday of May in a wonderful time of worship and celebrated the musical gifts of our students. We were filled with joy on the last Sunday of June as we marked the graduation of 22 wonderful young people.

We continue to hear many positive reports from students and families, about the wonderful experiences that students continue to have at MCI.

Unfortunately, there were also struggles. Late in 2021, MCI was selected as one of only two schools in all of Canada to record Handel's version of the Hallelujah Chorus alongside the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. For many years, it has been a treasured tradition for alumni to join students on stage to sing this jubilant song of praise at the conclusion of the Christmas concert. Many of us were delighted to share our tradition on an even larger stage. We received professional assistance in preparing the choir and making the audio and visual recordings. The resulting video was a cherished accomplishment for many.

Some of our families chose not to participate and were profoundly dismayed that our school would be publicly associated with a secular theatre company's project, whose interpretation of scripture or portrayal of Jesus they could not agree with. Conversations were difficult. Three

congregations formally withdrew support from MCI and no longer have seats at the Board table.

Later in the spring, we also encountered differing and strongly held views on how sexuality curriculum should be implemented in the school, and how best to offer students appropriate guidance and supports. These differences and disagreements persisted into the summer. In the fall, MCI leadership was able to begin to put some guidance in place to help address some of these matters, ensuring that MCI remains a safe place for everyone.

In September, the new school year began with a fresh set of struggles. Our attempts to increase enrolment had floundered. A year earlier we had good hopes for continued growth. By spring we had planned and budgeted to maintain the student count at 75. We began September with only 57. Decreased enrolment means decreased revenue from tuition, other fees, and provincial grants. Expenses are up significantly. The Board and Leadership Team have worked hard to manage the school's finances. We have accessed some unreserved savings, discussed financing options, reduced costs, and called for the continued generosity of our donor base. In these difficult circumstances, we must remind ourselves that:

**Our purpose is to educate young people in an Anabaptist Christian context, seeking to develop their God-given potential... Our goal is to raise up a generation who express Christian hope by serving others, promoting peace, and providing Christ-like leadership within the church community and secular world.**

~ from the MCI Mission Statement

Since 1889, young people have had life-changing experiences at MCI. In this Christ-centered environment, students have received a high quality, well-rounded education, formed life-long friendships and grown in faith and faithfulness. Our alumni have gone on to significant roles of service and leadership in the church, local community, and wider world.

We know we continue to make a real difference in the lives of students every day. The mission of MCI is as vital now as it ever was. Vision and a viable business plan will both be required. We also need to restore trust and increase enrollment. The Board and Leadership Team





recognize that hard work is still needed for there to be healing and restoration of relationships that were damaged by conflict in the past year.

The Board is working hard to establish effective strategic plans and workable financial arrangements. A new Leadership Team has been put in place. Harold Schlegel completed his time as Executive Director at the end of 2022. Jennifer Klippenstein will serve as Principal and provide school leadership for the rest of the school year. Kieran Reynolds continues as Director of Student Life and Recruitment. We are currently seeking a new Director of Finance and Administration.

Most importantly, we want to communicate how much we value all the families who entrust their students to MCI, and we hope you can help spread the word that MCI continues to be an excellent choice for Christ-centered and academically sound education, providing a solid foundation for their future.

We call on our churches to come together in unity to support MCI with their talents, gifts, and prayers. Please pray that God's wisdom will guide us as we discern the way forward.

Submitted by  
MCI Board and School Leadership Team

# Mennonite Disaster Service Canada REPORT

## MDS Canada 2022: "We became friends."

2022 was a busy year for MDS Canada. After the inactivity of 2020-21, due to the pandemic, we were busy responding to many needs across the country.

Through Hay West, farmers in Ontario who had good crops supported farmers in Saskatchewan who were threatened with the loss of their herds due to severe drought.

"I want to thank you," said Saskatchewan cattle farmer Curtis Mattson. "I was really up against it. It gave me some optimism to know there are people out there trying to help us."

In August 2021, the White Rock Lake Wildfire in Monte Lake, B.C. ravaged that community near Kamloops. MDS volunteers built four new homes in that community.

"The words don't come for how grateful we feel towards MDS," said Robert Hugh, who received a new home in Monte Lake. "Awesome, fantastic, incredible, that's what comes to mind when I think about what MDS is doing."

Following the devastating November 2021 flood in B.C., volunteers responded in Princeton and the Fraser Valley in B.C. Volunteers repaired 45 homes in both locations.

"I can honestly say we wouldn't be where we are today without your help," said Princeton Mayor Spencer Coyne. "You will never be forgotten. You will always be a part of our community." Added Dian Brooks, who lives with her brother, Danie, in a home that was repaired by volunteers in Princeton: "I don't know a better way to put it, but MDS

helped with that sense of hope," she said. Said Danie: "We became friends."

In the Fraser Valley, Tom Johnstone not only saw his house badly damaged by flood waters, but also lost his wife to cancer during that time. Help from MDS not only repaired his house—it helped him at a dark time.



Shelley Dueck presents a quilt to Michelle and Ted Swanson



Jobin family in front of their house, Barry's Bay

"MDS was there when I needed it the most," he said.

In Barry's Bay, Ontario, MDS volunteers worked with the Roman Catholic Knights of Columbus to help a family with a severely disabled child who needed special accommodation. Prior to building an addition to the farmhouse, the family had been separated so the child could have the controlled environment she needed. With help from MDS volunteers and the Knights, the family was reunited.

"God brought us together in an act of love," said the mother, grateful to be reunited with the rest of her family after living apart with her disabled child for about two years.

MDS volunteers also responded to Hurricane Fiona in Atlantic Canada. 133 volunteers spent ten weeks doing 179 tree clean-up jobs and 28 roof repair or rebuild jobs in Cape Breton. Homeowners were grateful. "It's beautiful what they did," said Edith Ball, a widow, of the volunteers who cleaned up the trees on her yard. Added Johnny Parson, a person living with a disability: "People here appreciate what MDS did."

For MDS Canada, it was privilege to be the hands and feet of Jesus for our neighbours across Canada in 2022. Thanks for your support

—Ross Penner, Director of Canadian Operations



**Mennonite Disaster Service  
Canada**

**MDS Canada**  
200-600 Shaftesbury Blvd.  
Winnipeg, MB Canada R3P 2J1  
204-261-1274 / toll-free 866-261-1274  
mdscanada@mds.org  
**mds.org**

# Westgate Mennonite Collegiate



The mission of Westgate Mennonite Collegiate is to provide a well-rounded education that will inspire and equip students to live as people of God. Our school is supported by 13 participating Mennonite Churches (a subset of MCM churches). In addition to prayer and financial support, these churches each have representation on our board. As a school, we connect with these churches by visiting them and leading worship services once every two years. The church pastors lead chapels, speak at our retreats and grads as well as visit the students from their congregation as it suits.

## New Leadership and Staff

September 2022 was a new start for many. The office team welcomed new administrators: James Friesen began his term as Principal and Heidi Koop transitioned from teaching into the Vice Principal role. We also welcomed five new staff members to our vibrant community.

## Nurturing Faith

Our Chapel Theme is based on Galatians 5:22 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self control; against such things there is no law." Staff and other speakers are sharing examples from their own lives, from history and from the Biblical Story of where and how the Spirit and this fruit is evident among God's people. In the end we want to look at how we can become a community that bears life, creativity and transformative power for all people and all communities.

In mid-October, Westgate's Special Emphasis Week, elegantly known as SPEW, featured three speakers who focussed on humility. Neil Craton spoke about learning from people in Winnipeg's inner city, Marcus Rempel reflected on how we need to be careful with competition and Allegra Friesen Epp spoke about being in spaces of listening and receiving, especially in her connections with Indigenous peoples. Darryl Neustaedter Barg led us once again in worship singing. He continues to be an important part of the music in Westgate chapels. Karina Fast, our Spiritual Life Coordinator, did an amazing job wrapping the week up meaningfully on Friday.



**Learning,  
Serving  
and  
Delighting  
in God's  
Creation**

## What is Westgate's enrollment this year?

The school currently has 319 students enrolled, with one class of Grade 6, three classes of Grade 9, and two classes of Grades 7, 8, 10, 11 and 12. Our student body is 40% Mennonite with many other Christian denominations welcomed into our community. We also have many students who have no connections to a faith community. We see our emerging role as one of hospitality and sharing God's love with all those who enter through our doors.

## What is something big happening this year?

The Bands and Choirs are excited to travel to Saskatchewan from March 18-23. We will be performing and connecting with local churches and schools in Regina and Saskatoon. We will also take this opportunity to connect with our fellow Mennonite school RJC in Rosthern for activities, rehearsals, and a Gala evening concert.

## Where do we need your prayer support?

As demographics continue to change, we ask for prayers that our school can remain a viable and strong Mennonite school in the years to come.



# Listing of MCM Staff and Board of Directors

## Office:

600 Shaftesbury Blvd. Winnipeg, MB R3P 0M4  
Phone: 204-896-1616, fax: 832-7804  
Website: [www.mennochurch.mb.ca](http://www.mennochurch.mb.ca)

- [office@mennochurch.mb.ca](mailto:office@mennochurch.mb.ca)

Michael Pahl – *Executive Minister*

- [mpahl@mennochurch.mb.ca](mailto:mpahl@mennochurch.mb.ca)

Darryl Neustaedter Barg – *Associate Director of Communications*

- [dnbarg@mennochurch.mb.ca](mailto:dnbarg@mennochurch.mb.ca)

Zachary Entz – *General Accountant*

- [finance@mennonitechurch.ca](mailto:finance@mennonitechurch.ca)

Steffi Friesen – *Accounts Payable/Finance Assistant*

- [finance@mennochurch.mb.ca](mailto:finance@mennochurch.mb.ca)

Naomi Ewert – *Administrative Assistant*

- [office@mennochurch.mb.ca](mailto:office@mennochurch.mb.ca)

## Leadership Ministries:

Jeff Friesen – *Co-Director of Leadership Ministries*

- [jfriesen@mennochurch.mb.ca](mailto:jfriesen@mennochurch.mb.ca)

Karen Schellenberg – *Co-Director of Leadership Ministries*

- [kschellenberg@mennochurch.mb.ca](mailto:kschellenberg@mennochurch.mb.ca)

## Congregational Ministries

Kathy Giesbrecht – *Director of Congregational Ministries*

- [kgiesbrecht@mennochurch.mb.ca](mailto:kgiesbrecht@mennochurch.mb.ca)

## Mission Ministries

Melanie Neufeld – *Director of Mission Engagement*

- [mneufeld@mennochurch.mb.ca](mailto:mneufeld@mennochurch.mb.ca) (starts Mar 1)

## Camps with Meaning

Dorothy Fontaine – *Director of Camps with Meaning*

- [dfontaine@mennochurch.mb.ca](mailto:dfontaine@mennochurch.mb.ca)

Janet Peters – *Associate Program Director for Camps*

- [jpeters@mennochurch.mb.ca](mailto:jpeters@mennochurch.mb.ca)

Elisabeth Franz-Warkentin – *Administrative Assistant*

- [camps@mennochurch.mb.ca](mailto:camps@mennochurch.mb.ca)

## Camp Assiniboia

2220 Lido Plage Rd., Cartier MB, R4K 1A3; 864-2159

Ed Doerksen, *Facilities Manager*

- [assiniboia@campswithmeaning.org](mailto:assiniboia@campswithmeaning.org)

Linda and Paul Dueck, *Guest Group Coordinators*

- [carentals@campswithmeaning.org](mailto:carentals@campswithmeaning.org)

Lauren Gervais, *Food Services Coordinator*

- [cakitchen@campswithmeaning.org](mailto:cakitchen@campswithmeaning.org)

## Camp Koinonia

Box 312, Boissevain, MB, R0K 0E0 ; 534-2504

- [campkoinoniainfo@gmail.com](mailto:campkoinoniainfo@gmail.com)

## Board of Directors

Gerald Gerbrandt, *Moderator*, Winnipeg

- [ggerbrandt@cmu.ca](mailto:ggerbrandt@cmu.ca)

Cheryl Braun, East

- [cheryl.m.braun@gmail.com](mailto:cheryl.m.braun@gmail.com)

Andrea Hildebrand, South

- [andkar8052@gmail.com](mailto:andkar8052@gmail.com)

Johanna Klassen, Young Adult

- [klassenjohanna@gmail.com](mailto:klassenjohanna@gmail.com)

Roy Lee, Winnipeg

- [roy@alsips.com](mailto:roy@alsips.com)

Don Rempel Boschmann, Winnipeg

- [don@douglasmc.ca](mailto:don@douglasmc.ca)

Evelyn Rempel Petkau, South

- [erpetkau@mymts.net](mailto:erpetkau@mymts.net)

Karen Tiessen, West

- [rkt@inetlink.ca](mailto:rkt@inetlink.ca)



# MCM Staff Photo Directory



Zachary Entz  
*Financial Services Assistant*



Naomi Ewert  
*Administrative Assistant*



Dorothy Fontaine  
*Director of Camps with  
Meaning*



Elisabeth Franz-Warkentin  
*CwM Admin Assistant*



Jeff Friesen  
*Co-Director of Leadership  
Ministries*



Steffi Friesen  
*Accounts Payable/Finance  
Assistant*



Kathy Giesbrecht  
*Dir. of Congregational  
Ministries*



Melanie Neufeld  
*Dir. of Mission Engagement*



Darryl Neustaedter Barg  
*Assoc. Dir. of Communications*



Michael Pahl  
*Executive Minister*



Janet Peters  
*CwM Assoc. Program Director*



Karen Schellenberg  
*Co-Director Leadership  
Ministries*

# MCM Staff Photo Directory cont.

## Camp Assiniboia



Ed Doerksen  
*Facilities Manager*



Lauren Gervais  
*Food Service Coordinator*



Linda Dueck  
*Guest Group Coordinator*



Paul Dueck  
*Guest Group Coordinator*



# MCM Board Photo Directory



Cheryl Braun



Gerald Gerbrandt



Andrea Hildebrand



Johanna Klassen



Roy Lee



Karen Tiessen



Don Rempel Boschman



Evelyn Rempel Petkau

# Clusters of MCM

## Eastern Cluster

1. Arnaud Mennonite Church
2. Elim Mennonite Church (Grunthal)
3. Glenlea Mennonite Church
4. Grace Mennonite Church (Steinbach)
5. Pinawa Christian Fellowship
6. Steinbach Mennonite Church

## Southern Cluster

7. Altona Bergthaler Mennonite Church
8. Altona Mennonite Church
9. Carman Mennonite Church
10. Covenant Mennonite Church (Winkler)
11. Emmanuel Mennonite Church (Winkler)
12. Gretna Bergthaler Mennonite Church
13. Lowe Farm Bergthaler Mennonite Church
14. Morden Mennonite Church
15. Pembina Mennonite Fellowship
16. Seeds Church (Altona)
17. Springstein Mennonite Church

## Western/Northern Cluster

18. Prairie Mennonite Fellowship (Crystal City)
19. Grace Mennonite Church (Brandon)
20. Living Word Church (Cross Lake)
21. Nordheim Mennonite Church (Winnipegosis)
22. Oak Lake Mennonite Church
23. Whitewater Mennonite Church (Boissevain)

## Winnipeg Cluster

24. Bethel Mennonite Church
25. Charleswood Mennonite Church
26. Douglas Mennonite Church
27. First Mennonite Church
28. Fort Garry Mennonite Fellowship
29. Home Street Mennonite Church
30. Hope Mennonite Church
31. Jubilee Mennonite Church
32. Lao Mennonite Church
33. North Kildonan Mennonite Church
34. Sargent Avenue Mennonite Church
35. Springfield Heights Mennonite Church
36. Sterling Mennonite Fellowship
37. Vietnamese Mennonite Church

## Affiliate Members

38. Little Flowers Community
39. Matheson Island Community