

**2019 Report Book  
Volume 62**

**MCM Gathering 2020**

# **Mennonite Church Manitoba**

**March 7, 2020**

**Hosted by Altona Bergthaler Mennonite Church, Altona, MB**

# Altona Bergthaler Mennonite Church

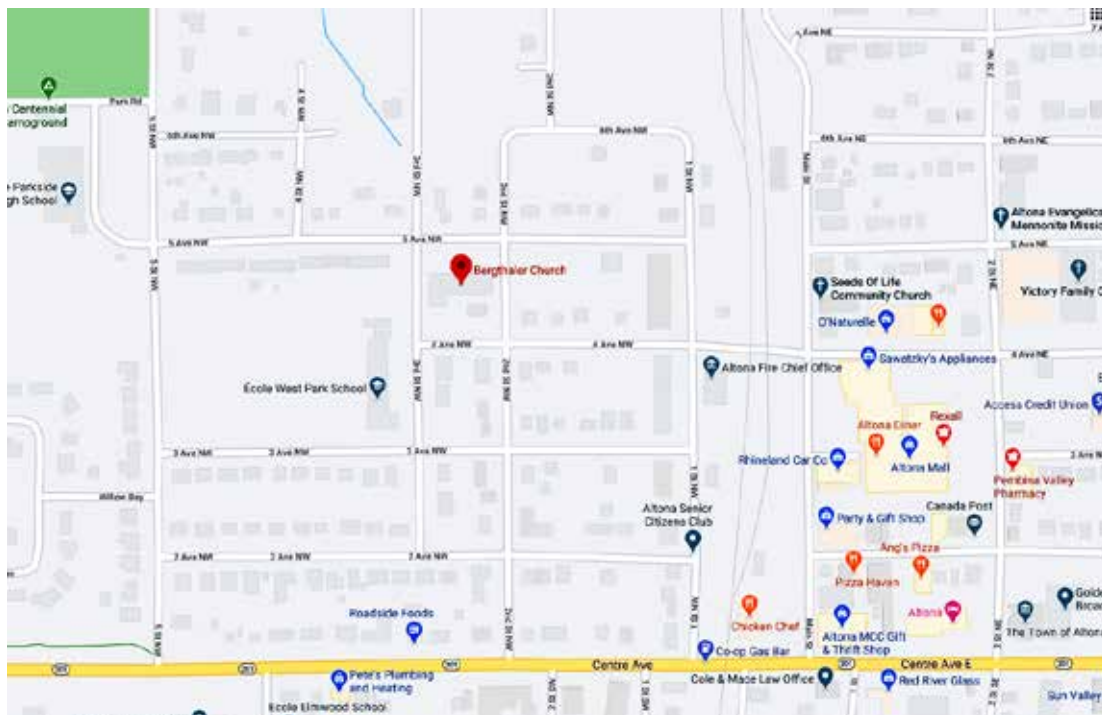
The Bergthaler Mennonite of Church of Altona (ABC) traces its roots to 1882 when Mennonites who had settled in the area of present day Altona began worshipping together. While some came directly from Russia and others via the East Reserve, the group that established themselves in the eastern part of the West Reserve were predominantly from the Bergthal Colony in Russia, hence our name. Our history includes many conflicts which, over the years, have resulted in the creation of other churches in Altona. However, we have grown and changed and currently seek collaboration and partnership with our sisters and brothers in Christ who also call the sunflower capital home. We are a family in which about 200 gather to worship Sunday morning, but perhaps as many as 400 people consider ABC to be their church.

Our congregation is deeply rooted in the community of Altona and holds our call to be witnesses to God's reign in this place very dear. Community organizations, programs, and charities are strongly connected to our church through our volunteering and support in other ways. Our church facilities are routinely used by schools and others in the community and our community food bank is located in the basement of our youth building. Our ventures program and youth ministry continue to share the love of God with many children and youth in Altona. We are currently leading an effort, on behalf of the churches of the Rhineland Municipality, to begin a free monthly community meal. It is our hope that a free community meal will contribute to the peace of our town, bring people together who do not normally fellowship, and minister to people who struggle to make ends meet or are seeking greater community and belonging.

Some of the highlights from the last year at ABC are: completing the search process for our Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry, a quilting worship service in which approximately 150 quilts beautified our sanctuary, a sermon series called “What Difference Does It Make” where we explored core Christian convictions and their implications, and seeing young people from our church win the Canadian Junior Women’s Curling Championship and compete at the World Championships.

In the last several years our congregation has undergone many transitions in pastoral leadership. However, as we begin 2020, we have a brand new Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry, an Associate Pastor returning from maternity leave shortly, and a relatively new Lead Pastor. God has been faithful through transitions and challenges in the last years and we now anticipate with hope and joy a season of stability and growth.

# Map



# Acronyms

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

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# 73rd Annual Gathering Program

## Saturday, March 7, 2020

8:30-9:00 am - **Registration** (Main Lobby)

9:00-9:30 am – **Worship** – Led by Altona Bergthaler Mennonite Church (Sanctuary)

9:30-10:15 am – **Session #1** (Sanctuary)

- welcome and opening agenda
  - introduction of guests
  - parliamentarian
  - 2019 minutes – presented by Ken Warkentin
  - 2019 Board actions (in packet) – presented by Ken Warkentin
  - Nominations
  - Review of agenda
- Reflections on MCM—the past 9 years and into the future – Ken Warkentin
- Finances – Richard Klassen
  - Presentation of 2019 financial statements
  - Presentation of 2020 budget

10:15-10:40 am – **Break** (Basement)

10:40-11:20 am – **Session #2** (Sanctuary)

- Introduction of MCM Board, MCM staff and MC Canada staff
- Leadership - report, presentation of key agenda, discernment
- Communications - report, presentation of key agenda, discernment

11:20-12:00 pm – **Discussion time (attendees choose one of the following)**

- Executive Minister Search Committee consultation
- Camps with Meaning Development Plan and Capital Campaign
- Discussion of Communications in MCM

12:00 am -12:50 pm – **Lunch** (Basement)

12:50-3:00 pm – **Session #3** (Sanctuary)

- Mission in an Age of Unbelief - Dorothy Fontaine
- Camps with Meaning Summer Camp Report - Janet Peters
- International Witness - report, presentation of key agenda, discernment
- Indigenous Relations – report
- Finances – discussion, presentation and action on budget
- Nominations – Bob Wiebe
- Unfinished business
- Announcements (including Infuse and Study Conference)

3:00-3:30 pm – **Worship** – Led by Altona Bergthaler Mennonite Church (Sanctuary)

- Celebration of Church Life, Communion, Blessing

# Foreword

Welcome to the Mennonite Church Manitoba report book. In it you will find a small representation of the work that the MCM Staff, the MC Canada staff, and the staff of many related organizations provide to our constituency. This in turn is but a small portion of the work and ministry of what goes on in MCM. Each congregation is a centre of worship, nurture, mission, and fellowship.

As you prepare for the 2020 Gathering being held in the Altona Bergthaler Mennonite Church March 7, please use this report book as your guide to what has happened this past year. The Gathering will focus not as much on the past as it will on understanding what are the big questions facing MCM this coming year. It is our prayer that 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.

This report book is a collaborative effort of many people and we are grateful for the work which has gone into creating this book. Darryl Neustaedter Barg is our Communications Director and produced this book.

I look forward to the opportunity to discuss our ministry together as the Gathered Body in March. May the peace of Christ fill you as you prepare your hearts and minds for our meetings.

Ken Warkentin,  
Executive Director  
Mennonite Church Manitoba

# 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

A high school teacher of mine regularly recited a phrase something like, “Nothing is as permanent as change.” That may be true, but that doesn’t make it easy.

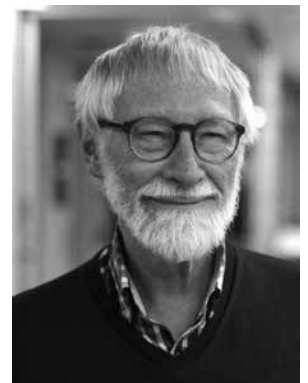
For the past nearly nine years Ken Warkentin has led MCM. These have not been easy years as MCM dealt with some significant and at times divisive issues – new nationwide structures, restructuring MCM financial systems, reorganization of the MCM camping program, congregations leaving MCM as a result of conversations around sexuality. Throughout Ken has served MCM with passion, care, sensitivity, and a high level of commitment to his calling and the calling of the church.

In my report last year I suggested that MCM appeared to have made it through a time of turbulence, even if with losses, and now was able to shift focus towards the future, to identity and mission. Ken’s resignation doesn’t change that. In fact, it might be contended that giving attention to clarifying our identity and mission is even more important now. Only, MCM will need to work at that under new leadership, with perhaps the Board becoming more active in the conversation. The MCM Board is committed to working at this, and will have more to report at the March 7 Gathering on how it plans to move forward on this.

Even in a time of change, the usual work of MCM continues. A wonderfully committed MCM staff works hard at serving the congregations. Rick Neufeld and Kathy Giesbecht provide support and care for congregational pastors, assisting congregations during times of transition. Darryl Neustaedter makes sure we hear about what is happening within MCM, as well as the broader Mennonite Church Canada. Dorothy Fontaine, Janet Peters, David Hogue, Paul and Linda Dueck, Alfridie Braun, Jake Fehr and Elizabeth Franz-Warkentin lead an amazing camping program, as well as help us as a body reach out beyond ourselves in mission. Stephanie Wenger provides invaluable support to the whole as Administrative Assistant. Dorothea Kampen has given Frohe Botschaft years of stable leadership. We thank each of them for sharing of themselves with the larger church.

This is all happening despite the reality of finances challenges. As the financial report will indicate, our 2019 fiscal year did end in a deficit. MCM is not first of all about money. But at the same time, as any organization with staff, it must balance its books in order to thrive. A priority in the coming year must be balancing those books even as congregations benefit from uniting together in MCM.

Gerald  
Gerbrandt  
*Moderator*





# MCM Executive Director's Report

"I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers." As I reflect on the year 2019 the words that Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus resonate in my heart. As I reflect on the past nine plus years I am filled with gratitude for the faithfulness of my sisters and brothers in Mennonite Church Manitoba and Canada. As I squint and peer toward the future, I pray that you will continue in your faithfulness and that you will know the hope and riches that Jesus' resurrection provides for each one of us. I say this not wanting to gloss over some difficult issues that these past years have provided, but rather as a way of celebrating both God's faithfulness and your passion in following Jesus.

One of the joys of being a part of Mennonite Church Manitoba is the opportunity to visit many of our congregations and experience what kinds of ministry each one embraces. I see each of our congregations as a centre of worship, nurture, and mission. Each one has a unique God given character and each one portrays another face of Jesus.

One of the goals of Mennonite Church Manitoba is to strengthen Congregational Life. The staff in MCM do this in a variety of ways. We work at leadership development by offering training to our pastors and lay leaders. We work at developing leaders for our church through camping ministry which also involves a great deal of training and spiritual formation. We work at sharing the good news of Jesus through our summer camp program.

But we also recognize and celebrate that each of our congregations also participates in the wonderful work of sharing the call of Jesus, worshipping the Giver of Life, and nurturing the faith of followers of Jesus. We are in this together. One of my favorite lines from the Covenant between the five regions is a promise to "Bless and support each other's ministries as if they were our own and support the viability and strength of each congregation and each Regional Church". To me this captures the ideal that each congregation is a vital centre of God's presence, but that we recognize that we are only parts of a much greater whole that makes up the body of Christ. And of course, that great body is not limited to the Mennonite Church world but embraces all congregations and denominations that proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The work of the MCM staff is presented in other parts of this report book. I do want to publicly thank our hard-working staff for the many ways they faithfully participate in the ministry of the Church. Last year we made the difficult decision to let go our long-standing treasurer Tom Seals. We did this as a cost saving measure and worked out an arrangement with Mennonite Church Eastern Canada and Mennonite Church Canada to share staff in the areas of finance and human resources. Sean East from MCEC is our accountant, Laura Zacharias from MC Canada is our human resource staff, and Jessica Schmidt from MC

Canada is our book keeper. These positions are all seconded for one day/week. In addition, Stephanie Wenger is now doing the book keeping for our camps and is seconded to MC Canada for one day/week for administrative support. These arrangements have required some getting used to, and there have been some glitches along the way, but I believe that they are now in place to serve MCM well into the future.

I am grateful and inspired by our two choirs who faithfully participate in several worship services each year and perform two worshipful concerts each year. Janet Brennehan and Ben Pauls have provided the choirs and their audiences with profound gifts of leadership and musicality. This year the board also supported the decision to end the radio broadcast "Frohe Botschaft". Our listenership has been declining over the past few years and we felt that the time was right to end our German broadcast. I am deeply grateful for the many years of service of our producer Dorothea Kampen and the many people who have participated in this ministry over the years.

We understand the work of our Nation-wide Church, MC Canada, to be fully integrated into the work of each regional church. This means that through your support, passion, and prayers for MCM you are also supporting several International Witness workers, several international ministries, Indigenous/Settler relations, Anabaptist resourcing through CommonWord, pension plans and benefit programs for your pastors, inspirational conferences, and a growing sense of national unity within the Mennonite Church.

It has been a privilege and pleasure to work with the MCM Board, Staff, and the congregations that make up this part of the Body of Christ! As this will be my last report to the MCM Gathering I will close with words from Paul's prayer that reflect my own heart: "I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power." (Ephesians 1: 17-19)



Ken Warkentin  
*Executive Director*

## Faith and Life Choirs



Faith and Life Women's Chorus - Christmas 2018

Conductor: Janet Brenneman Pianist: Erin Dyck



Faith and Life Male Choir - Christmas 2018

Conductor: Ben Pauls Pianist: Loren Hiebert

The Faith and Life Choirs are a ministry of Mennonite Church Manitoba's "Church Community Building Ministry."

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

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 provide music for the Frohe Botschaft radio program.

# Mission Ministry

On Carol Penner's resource site, *Leading in Worship*, is a reflection on Jesus' parable of the man who buried a talent given to him by his master. Penner writes that, "He is remembered forever as the man who didn't get it, the man who missed the stewardship boat, the man who was profoundly untalented". She also notes that by his own admission, the reason why he buried his master's money was fear. Traditional interpretations of this parable say that the servant who buried the money, perceived his master as punitive & harsh, whereas the servants who invested the money and increased its value regarded their master in a positive light.

When it comes to missional outreach, how we perceive God is critical. Truth be told, even when mission is understood in the light of Christ's testament & commandment to love, there are still things to fear. Love calls us to be vulnerable, take risks, and embark on ventures and relationships that might fail.

As a community of believers who has taken some risks however, we know that there are deeply compelling reasons to do so. We know that somehow in the act of loving others we and others grow in the light and grace of God's love. This becomes a blessing of increase; and therein lies our hope.

It's with this in mind, that we cast our sights on some of the good work that God is doing through us collectively and as individual congregations. While we can't possibly acknowledge all of these efforts, in noting some, we hope to attune ourselves to where the Spirit's leading and encourage each other to ever greater acts of kindness, unity and love.

## Love for our Neighbours

Jubilee Mennonite Church celebrated the opening of Community Roots Resource Centre in May of 2019. The centre is located in Jubilee Mennonite Church. In describing its purpose, Community Pastor Anna Marie Ged-



dert explains, "We walk alongside families and individuals within the River east Area. [Community Roots Resource Centre] exists as a gathering place... a place to belong, care for each other and learn together. We strive to understand the strengths and challenges of the neighbourhood so that together we can

uncover ways to support and care for each other."



## Love for the Earth

As the world turns its attention to the realities of climate change, the broader ecumenical church along with other faith communities seek a response; particularly light of the vulnerable communities that are already feeling its impact and young people who are calling for change. In September, a number of MCM churches pastors, members and students joined hundreds of others for a multifaith prayer gatherings in Winnipeg and Morden. Following the prayer services, thousands participated in a walk for climate justice and an afternoon of climate action at the Manitoba Legislative building. This marks a relatively new focus in mission that leads to compelling questions on how we, as the Church, will respond – may God guide us in sound discernment, action, faithfulness and love.

## Partnership Circles

This was Sterling Mennonite Church's 10th year of VBS at Cross Lake. In 2019, they added two new programs: a youth leadership camp and a sports camp. Over 250 children and youth attended and a similar number of adults from the community also participated in a free bingo night. As Moses Falco describes, "The hall was packed ... and we had a blast!"



A number of northern and southern churches & communities participated in joint worship services, family camp programs and other events throughout the year. Currently members of Matheson Island Log Chapel are looking to form a



partnership with another church or small group who'd be willing to join them 3-4 times per year for fellowship and worship. For more information please contact Dorothy Fontaine.



*Pauingassi and Grace Mennonite Church celebrating their 9th year of Family Camp*

## Bill C262

In March, Mennonite Church Manitoba (in collaboration with Mennonite Church Canada, MCC Manitoba and CMU) hosted an event in support of human rights



bill C-262 which sought to harmonize Canadian law with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Over 700 people came to listen to expert panelists, show their support and sign petitions and postcards. The bill made it all the way to the 3rd reading in the Senate, but then "died on the order paper" on June 21st. Despite its outcome, the bill generated awareness and broad support across Canada; UNDRIP is identified as a necessary and meaningful step towards achieving reconciliation. More recent parliamentary efforts



seek to introduce co-developed legislation to implement UNDRIP by the end of 2020."

## Learning Parties

This year Mennonite Church Manitoba partnered with New Leaf Ministries (of the Free Methodist Church of Canada) to host a "Learning Party" at Fort Garry Mennonite Fellowship. Learning Parties typically feature a number of speakers who are engaged in local outreach and church planting ministries around Manitoba. The aim of these Learning Parties is to inspire and demystify the local mission process in the hopes of encouraging churches and individuals to step out in faith and engage with the community around them. These events provide networking opportunities with other Christians who love and are passionate about their communities in Manitoba. If your church is looking for inspiration, new ideas or is simply interested in what others are doing around Manitoba, this event is for you! Keep an eye out for announcements on the next Learning Party event.

## Camping Ministry

2020 will be a big year for Camps with Meaning as we launch a capital campaign for Camp Assiniboia! Since 2016, we have been working steadily through a strategic plan that called for significant restructuring of our ministry, including its: operational systems, physical sites, programs, staffing and infrastructure. We have done this with an eye to our vision which is to:

- nurture the spiritual growth of the next generation by offering a vibrant and sustainable summer camp program, new retreat opportunities for youth & young adults and a gap year program for young adults
- and nurture the local mission efforts of our churches by offering intergenerational retreat experiences that promote spiritual "best practices" through reflection & prayer, learning & thoughtful dialogue, relationship building and acts of service & love.

This vision is, in part, aspirational and there is still much work to do; but over the past four years we have implemented a number of changes that are getting us closer to these goals including:

- A new governance model through the establishment of a Camp Committee which oversees camp operations, programming and finances
- New booking & financial management systems
- Summer camp program review & listening tour which focused on our theology, Bible program, lead-

ership program and overall camp ethos

- Measures to ensure financial sustainability such as: increasing camper registration rates and creating a campership fund to off-set the increase for families in financial need, transitioning to a two-camp model.
- Camp Koinonia is now managed by a local group of dedicated supporters who have formed Koino Inc. For more information, news and updates go to <http://www.campkoino.ca/>.
- Although the capital campaign hasn't officially begun, a number building projects at Camp Assiniboia were completed or are underway, including:
  - Four year-round cabins
  - A new maintenance shop
  - Picnic shelter (from Camp Moose Lake)
  - Extensive repairs to the dike and flood protection system
  - The development of a lake (which we hope to have a “soft opening” for this summer). *(picture of beach can be added)*

With the completion of these, we can now turn our attention to the rest of the development plans and capital campaign which was first outlined in 2016 and is now updated in the 2020 Strategic Plan (separately attached). Our goal is to raise 3.4 million dollars over the course of approximately two years. In total, 16 projects have been identified for one of more of the following reasons:

- The facility currently exists and is used, but in need of significant repair or replacement
- The facility or structure supports the vision for our ministry and its program requirements
- It contributes to the financial sustainability of our camping ministry.

Two of these projects will generate much needed revenue that will ensure long term sustainability of our camping ministry, new programming and additional staffing needs.

## Financial Sustainability

A key source of revenue for our ministry comes from guest groups who rent our facilities in the fall, winter and spring. Our close proximity to Winnipeg, our warm hospitality and our full-service amenities makes Camp Assiniboia a popular destination for school groups, churches, charities, businesses and families.

Currently, to secure a booking at Camp Assiniboia in the fall (our most popular season) reservations must be made a year in advance. Moreover, as of January 2020, the week-

ends are solidly book until November. In a four month period (from October 2019 to January 2020) we turned away an estimated \$ 72,000 in revenue because we could not accommodate additional groups.

One of the goals of the development plan is to increase our capacity so that we can host more than one group at a time. Three of the projects in this plan would give us this ability. These buildings will accommodate a range of groups (small, medium and large). Projections on their capacity and revenue generating potential are as follows:

- The renovation of the Mini Conference Centre is likely to increase annual occupancy by 4,100 guests generating \$91,400 in surplus revenue after direct costs such as food, additional staffing and operating costs (hydro, taxes, insurance etc.) are taken into account. At the low end of these projections, the conference centre would bring in an additional 1,800 guests and \$4,100 in surplus revenue, at the high end 6,200 guests and \$96,800 in surplus revenue.
- Using the same formula, an additional “Homewood-style” cabin would generate an estimated surplus revenue of \$13,500 (low), \$41,000 (likely) and \$56,200 (high).
- The renovated riding arena will be used primarily as an indoor space for guests using the lodge or new retreat centre; however this facility could also host larger day conferences (for up to 300 people). Three two-day conferences per year would more than cover the operational costs of this building. Any additional bookings or services (food services or activities) would be surplus.

Altogether, the surplus generated from these buildings (excluding the riding arena) ranges from \$17,500 (low), \$132,500 (likely), and \$153,000 (high).

## Camp Assiniboia Development Projects and Costs

Fundraising Timeline: 2 years (from the official launch of the campaign)

Project Costs: \$3,352,700

Fundraising Goal: \$3,400,000

The following table outlines the building & renovation projects to be included in the Camp Assiniboia capital campaign. They are listed in order of priority and according to the timeline in which they will be built.

The costs estimated below include taxes, labour & general contractor fees, architect fees and other costs associated with running the campaign (events, marketing, communications, and additional paid personnel).

Lake development	\$110,000
New Retreat Centre (renovation of existing Mini Conference Centre)	\$650,000
Extra self-led activities and games	\$22,000
New ropes course and zip line	\$55,000
New Pool & change house	\$378,000
Trail development	\$35,000
Riding arena & barn conversion	\$389,000
Housing for staff & Gap Year program	\$650,000
Farm development	\$80,000
New “Homewood-Style” cabin	\$300,000
Cabin for families of Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women & Girls (MMIWG)	\$260,000
Yurt for land-based education programming	\$44,000
New rec field	\$16,200
Ice Rink	\$27,500
Natural playground	\$35,000
Lodge renovations	\$175,000
Campaign costs	\$126,000

Detailed descriptions, rationale and implementation of these projects are available in the 2020 Strategic Plan. The plan also includes a comparative analysis of other Bible camps in Manitoba, a description of new programs for Camps with Meaning, a detailed assessment of future staffing needs, and more information on the structure of the fundraising team and campaign. To review the strategic plan, go to [www.mennochurch.mb.ca/mission](http://www.mennochurch.mb.ca/mission).



Dorothy Fontaine  
*Director of Mission*



# Summer Program Report

## Bible Curriculum and Theme Song

Our Bible curriculum for summer 2019 was titled “We are God’s Community.” Written by Selenna Wolfe with support from a small group of experienced individuals, the curriculum’s focus Scripture text came from Colossians 3:12-14: “As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. We are all loved by God, we are all in community, we are in God’s community because of God: not because of us.” The daily lessons moved us from our emotions, which sometimes get in the way of being in community into Jesus’ call to put on the “clothing” and act in ways that include, comfort and celebrate each other as part of God’s community.

One of Camps with Meaning’s unique traditions is to hold a songwriting workshop in spring at which present and past staff work together to create a song reflecting our Bible theme. This has become an integral part of our curriculum and our worship over the years, and we now have quite a list of Camps with Meaning songs that reflect our Anabaptist theology and the camp worshipping community. This year we came up with two new songs. One is geared toward younger children and has us putting on various articles of clothing throughout the week, such as the “pants of patience” and “cape of compassion.” The second is more contemplative in tone and names both the difficulty and the joy of being in community. Lyrics, chords and recordings of all of our songs can be found at [www.campswithmeaning.org/summer/memories-of-camp/music](http://www.campswithmeaning.org/summer/memories-of-camp/music). This next summer’s overarching theme is “Knowing God.”

A group of past Bible Instructors, pastors and educators will be brought together to craft lessons and activities to help campers engage with that theme. What a blessing to have a community with the talents to craft curriculum and music for our camps!



## Summer Program

This summer we had a total of 618 campers come through our programs. Over 430 children and youth from grades 1 through 12, as well as almost 190 adults with mental and physical challenges experienced a week at one of our camps. A number of families applied for and received a discount through our campership program, which will continue to be available in 2020.

Swimming, archery, and the zip-line were the highest ranked activities of the summer – activities offered at both of our wonderful camps. Bikes as an activity was reintroduced at Koinonia. Campers of all ages and abilities had space to learn and grow in their faith through regular times of worship and prayer, which included singing, learning, and sharing. Conversations and relationships with old and new friends – and our amazing staff – allowed for more sharing and growing together in faith, as did time simply spent outdoors in our beautiful camp settings.

Both staff and campers come back from camp transformed in big and small ways – they are kinder to their siblings and classmates, more considerate and confident, have created a deeper relationship with God, and are often energized to get involved in their churches back home. We want to continue making those connections and making a difference in the lives of our campers and our staff. To that end I have continued having conversations with the MCM pastors about what Anabaptism looks like at summer camp, what are the messages and values we want to pass on, and how camp ministry and church ministries can benefit each other. I have heard many affirmations for what we are doing, as well as challenges to keep our stories and teaching centred on the Word and on Jesus and to keep thinking wider and deeper about reconciliation.

Our two camps have continued to work at visioning and planning for the future. Koinonia has been able to update many of the signs, the archery stand, the lodge interior, and is excited to add another week of camp,

and a first try at a Koinonia day camp in 2020. Assiniboia has a new dyke, “the Moose” picnic shelter, and the beginnings of a lake. The upcoming capital campaign will benefit the camping ministry year-round with updates to activities and facilities.



Summer 2020 will see some new age categories and a new way of doing day camp in hopes of increasing our camper numbers and allowing for ever more opportunities for parents to fit camp into their summer schedule.

### Retreats

Throughout the spring, fall, and winter months Camps with Meaning was also able to support some very wonderful retreats. In February we held a retreat for our ADV (adults with disabilities) campers at Camp Assiniboia. Bryn Friesen Epp directed the retreat, and Taysa Dueck provided the Bible lessons and many of our senior summer staff volunteered to make this a meaningful time for

the 17 participants.

In May 32 people of all ages and birding experience went

### The following is the 2019 Leadership Staff:

#### Assiniboia Leadership

Summer Program Directors: Nadya Langelotz & Mackenzie Hildebrand  
Bible Instructor: Marnie Klassen  
Nature Instructor: Anna Epp  
Farm Coordinator: Marika Veith

#### Koinonia Leadership

Summer Program Directors: Bri Hildebrand & Brianna Wiebe  
Bible Instructor: Bryn Friesen Epp  
Nature Instructor: Taysa Dueck

#### Day Camp & Teen Volunteer Program

Day Camp Director: Emily Enns  
Day Camp Bible Instructor: Isaac Schlegel

#### Servant Leaders in Training (SLT) Program

SLT Directors: Emma Berg & Jonathan Pankratz

#### Integration Coordinator: Mackenzie Nicole

#### Guest Bible Speakers

Koinonia Youth Camp: Kristi Letkeman Hosler



out to Camp Moose Lake and the surrounding area for a birding retreat directed by Dieter Schonwetter. Highlights included a guest presentation by indigenous elder and pastor Norman Meade, held in a tepee, and an audio-visual worship experience Sunday morning.

In November we held a Sabbath retreat for our summer staff at Camp Assiniboia. While only 5 staff were able to come out, the weekend was a valuable time of worship, conversation, puzzling, and walking together.

All of these retreats are planned to continue in 2020.

### Staff and Volunteers

This past summer we had more than 150 staff and volunteers working with us to make our summer camp program possible. The 65 volunteers who gave of their time and talents in the kitchen, on maintenance, as pastors and as health officers were not only essential to the running of our program, but also contributed to fullness that is our summer camp community. We are also very grateful to Wes and Heather Goertzen, Randy Hildebrand and LeAnne Froese for providing 4-month pastoral care to our leadership teams at both camps.

We continued to partner with Urban Stable in caring for and running our horse program. There were some challenges with scheduling and adjusting to working within the requirements of two organizations. Leadership staff worked hard to get as many campers out to the barn for 2-hour slots to maximize riding time.

Our staff of 77 young people were as amazing and creative and faithful as ever. We had an astounding 23 Teen Volunteers who, guided by their directors and a few experienced staff, provided care and an atmosphere of welcome and fun to our full day camp weeks. Our SLT group was made up of 16 solid young staff who stepped into all sorts of new roles and experiences with energy and joy. Our experienced counsellors continued to shine as they helped campers thrive and grow in all sorts of ways, while continuing to grow themselves.

The program had 14 strong leaders once again this summer. Many of them were returning leadership staff and reprising previous roles, which created space for new leadership staff to stretch and thrive. Their maturity and love for camp were an inspiration for the staff and for me, and I feel blessed once again to have had such a lovely crew to do camp with.



Janet Peters  
*Assoc. Summer Program  
Director*

# Leadership Ministries

*"Abide in me as I abide in you...those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit." John 15:4-5*

## MONTHLY HAPPENINGS:

- Pastor Cluster Groups: Winnipeg, Southern, Western, Eastern
- Spiritual Care Visitation Grp.
- Church Leadership Ministers of MC Canada
- Israel / Palestine Manitoba Working Grp.
- MCM Staff meetings
- Congregational Search Committees (almost monthly!)
- Denominational Leaders Accountability Group

## HIGHLIGHTS:

January – Covenanting service for Pastor Lisa Martens (Hope Mennonite)

MCM, CMU, MBCMB, MCC Manitoba  
MC Canada Gathering in Abbotsford BC (first gathering of our new entity)

- Theme: "Re-igniting the imagination of the Church"
- Welcome for Doug Klassen (MC Canada Executive Minister)

Arnaud Mennonite Church 75th Anniversary celebration

August – Family Wedding

Charleswood Mennonite Church – Farewell service for long-term Pastor John Braun

September – Credentialing services of three (3) Pastors and covenanting service at Home Street Mennonite for Phil Campbell-Enns

Passing away of my father – Abe Neufeld (97 yrs. old)

October – Camps with Meaning Fundraising Banquet (Winkler)

Credentialed Pastors of MCM (including Retired Pastors) – 175  
Credentialed Pastors in Active Congregational Ministry - 60  
New Pastors to MCM (including interim & commissioned - 4  
Concluding Pastoral assignments (including interim) – 8  
Interim Pastors - 2  
Credentials Granted – 7  
Credentials Transferred IN – 0  
Credentials Transferred OUT – 1

February- "ReNew" Conference @CMU: Guest Presenter: Tom Long

- Theme: "Death, Funerals and Christian Hope"
- Sermon via Skype (Elim Mennonite – Grunthal)

March – Leadership Day @ Springfield Hts. Mennonite Church

- Topic: "Love Thyself as your Neighbour: Resilience in Fulfilling God's Call"
- Guest Presenter: Carolyn Klassen

April - Spiritual Retreat @ Camp Assiniboia with Steve Bell

Joined with Home Street Mennonite Church for Residential School Tour (Portage la Prairie)

May- Credentialing interviews for three (3) MCM Pastors  
Retired Pastors Gathering @ Douglas Mennonite Church

June - #ChurchToo Conference @CMU (sponsored by

Ordination of Jose Luis Moraga @ Springfield Hts. Mennonite Church

November – Leadership Day @ Camp Assiniboia  
Presenter: Irma Fast-Dueck

- Theme: "Re-Learning to Swim in Baptismal Waters"

December - Bi-National (MCUSA & MC Canada) Leadership Meetings @ Banff, AB.

Processing with Trinity Fellowship & Crystal City Mennonite around amalgamation

## REFLECTIONS:

We planned four (4) Leadership Day events this past spring (one per month from February to May). The intent was to provide support, spiritual care and professional resourcing for MCM Pastors. This proved to be quite heavy and resulted in the May event having to be cancelled. Perhaps too much resourcing can also feel quite heavy! Point taken!

The Ministerial Leadership Committee met regularly to attend to congregational transitions and pastoral concerns that arise. The credentialing of ministers is an important responsibility of this group who assist in the discernment of God's calling within the individual and serves alongside the local congregation. The committee members are: Erin Morash, Harold Schlegel, Brenda Penner, Julie Thiesen, Harold Peters-Fransen & Laverne Siemens. I thank them for their very good work.

MCM serves through the gifts of many individuals. I wish to mention two special persons: The coordination work of Peter Dyck as Spiritual Care Coordinator and Dorothea Kampen for the Frohe Botschaft Radio ministry has reached almost two decades. They have offered much time and energy to these ministries. Their commitment to the role and task is appreciated and I thank them for their dedicated care and love. Both ministries have existed many decades and have been a significant piece of MCM's care and outreach.

A number of pastoral transitions have taken place through 2019. While this is not unusual, it is a bit concerning for congregations that are having to "downsize" staff time/positions due to decreased budgets. This reality results in congregations often having to think about creative or new forms of ministry such as bi-vocational ministry. On the contrary, we also have congregations who are exploring ways to increase their ministry positions due to increased numbers of people attending or strengthening new ministry initiatives within their community.

The newly formed structure of the Nation-wide Church (already a few years old) has certainly increased a need for more frequent communication and dialogue with one another. The Church Leadership Ministers of the five regions including the Executive Minister of MC Canada are meeting monthly via video-conference as well as face-to-face meetings twice a year. These opportunities are proving to be, not only beneficial but essential to working at the church leadership agenda of the regional and national church. Information and communication of our programs, funding plans and pastoral/congregational resources as well as leadership development remain front and center.

It is encouraging and delightful to talk with students who are pursuing an interest in pastoral ministry. I am grateful for the ways that the denomination and post-secondary schools intersect in providing educational study and practical training for students to explore their calling and gifts.

We supported two pastors from the MCM's bursary educational funds. Through the Jake & Dorothy Pauls Pastoral Leadership Training fund as well as the A.G. Neufeld Minister and Missionary Education Fund, we were able to provide financial support for Karen Schellenberg and John Klassen to attend the Transitional Ministry training course offered through MCUSA. I strongly encourage congregations who wish to know more about this training to talk with John or Karen or myself about the significant role that transitional ministry can play when a congregation is "in-between" settled pastors. I am very grateful for the financial gifts that encourage our pastors to receive such training. These funds are tremendous gifts offered to the church. (see more about these funds on a separate page)

I have made twenty seven (27) visits this past year to MCM congregations for a Sunday morning service. These include invitations to preach or to lead in credentialing services or to lead a Sunday school class on a particular suggested theme. I have noted that there exists a strong encouragement for good leadership within the congregation and my hope is for continued strong commitment of pastoral leadership in shaping and forming the congregation's mission.

Being a part of the full MCM and MC Canada staff group and working together has brought me joy and enormous gratitude for each person's gifts. This is a blessing that I have enjoyed each day.

May the abiding love of God continue to infuse life-bearing fruit within our congregations and the communities where we live and serve!



Rick Neufeld  
*Dir. of Leadership  
Ministries*

# Pastor - Congregation Linkages

## MCM PASTORAL PLACEMENTS:

(Congregation)	(Name)	(Position)	(Start Date)
Bethel Mennonite	Valeriia Alipova	Interim Pastor for Youth	September 1
Bethel Mennonite	John Braun	Interim Pastor – Seniors	October 1
Home Street Mennonite	Phil Campbell-Enns	Pastor for Faith Formation	August 12
Covenant Mennonite	Ben Pauls	Interim Pastor (6 mths)	July 1
Sargent Ave. Mennonite	Jonathan Muehling	Associate Pastor	December 1
Covenant Mennonite	Kevin Drudge	Pastor	January 1, 2020

## CONCLUDING ASSIGNMENTS:

(Congregation)	(Name)	(Position)	(End Date)
Altona Bergthaler Mennonite	Richard Bage	Youth Pastor	February 28
Jubilee Mennonite	Bryce Miller	Pastor	June 9
Covenant Mennonite	Kelvin Dyck	Pastor	June 30
Bethel Mennonite	Phil Campbell-Enns	Associate Pastor	July 31
Home Street Mennonite	Melissa Miller	Transitional Pastor	July 31
Charleswood Mennonite	John Braun	Pastor	August 31
Morden Mennonite	Larissa Pahl	Pastor	September 30
Covenant Mennonite	Ben Pauls	Interim Pastor	December 31

## CREDENTIALING ACTIVITY:

(Congregation)	(Name)	(Credential)	(Service Date)
Whitewater Mennonite	Wes Goertzen	Ordination	February 3
Hope Mennonite	Laura Funk	Licensed for Specific Ministry	May 12
Steinbach Mennonite	Lee Hiebert	Licensing Toward Ordination	September 8
Douglas Mennonite	Adam Robinson	Ordination	September 22
Bethel Mennonite	Kathy McCamis	Licensing Toward Ordination	September 29
Springfield Hts. Mennonite	Jose Luis Moraga	Ordination	October 27
Fort Garry Mennonite Fellowship	Karinnina Schoenwetter	Commissioned for Lay Ministry	October 6

Credentials Transferred IN: Rachel Siemens (Central District MCUSA); Barry Lesser(MCBC)  
 Credentials Transferred OUT: Walter Hiebert (MBMB)

## 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 2020, will be considered.

This past year the interest from the two bursary assistance funds provided support for both Karen Schellenberg and John Klassen to attend a Transitional Ministry Course in Kansas, USA in October. The amount of \$2025.00 Cdn. covered the registration costs of both for this training course.

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 2020, 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.

If you would like to apply for this fund in 2019, please contact MCM Leadership Ministries to receive guidelines and an application form.

Applications received by June 1, 2020 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).

In 2019, there were no applications received.

If you would like to apply for a Johann Funk loan in 2020, please contact Leadership Ministries.

Applications received by August 1, 2020, will be considered.

# 72nd Annual Gathering | March 2, 2019

Host Congregation: First Mennonite Church, Winnipeg, MB

## Session #1

### Opening comments - Gerald Gerbrandt

- this is the 72nd annual meeting
- Thank you to Ken, Rick, Lee, Darryl for leading worship, to Don for sharing story.

### 2018 Minutes - presented by Ken Warkentin (in report book)

- change of the annual fall meeting to an educational gathering (Infuse)

### Acceptance of Minutes:

- *Moved by Colleen Edmunds, seconded by Jose-Luis Moraga (Springfield Heights MC)*
- *Carried.*

### 2018 Board Actions - presented by Ken Warkentin (distributed in package)

### Acceptance of Board Actions:

- *moved by Tim Wenger, seconded by Virginia Gerbrandt Richert*
- *Carried.*

### Introduction of Guests - Gerald Gerbrandt

- From AMBS: Ken Hawkley, Sara Wenger Schenk
- From MC Sask: Ryan Siemens
- From Canadian Mennonite: Aaron Epp, Virginia Hostetler

## Staff reporting by video

### Conversation arising from staff report:

- previously in Mission Ministry report we have heard from partners like Chiara House. He had heard Chiara House had been dissolved - what is the state of our partnership and what are the plans for this ministry?
- Ken Warkentin - Yes, our partnership with Chiara House has dissolved, but our intention for physical space and community is still vital. The business partners that own the building have explored selling, but only to those whose vision/values align with Chiara House's vision, ie. the current residents would continue to benefit from lower rent and be allowed to stay regardless of who buys. Partners continue to meet.

### Video from Kirsten Hamm-Epp re: Shake! Conference at Shekinah this summer

## Session #2

### Introduction of Board members - Gerald Gerbrandt

### 2018 Financial Statements (in package)

- Gerald noted that money is to organizations as breathing is to our survival - don't like to think about it, but it's necessary and important. He invited delegates to speak into how we allocate our money.
- Richard Klassen:
  - He recognized that the financial reports were only distributed this morning and apologized that they were not distributed earlier
  - Donation Revenue reflects a 103,000 shortfall from our budget
  - Expenses - new line Partner Ministries adds substantially to our expenses



- Gerald:
  - we are changing how we do our finances, so it is difficult to compare to past years

### Questions arising from financial statements:

- We promised CMU \$100,000 in 2018 but we only gave \$75,000 - can we get clarification?
- Richard - The original commitment was \$100,000. However, CMU noted that money from the first quarter came directly from MC Canada, as it was before the structure change was completed
- So are we actually short the amount noted?
- Richard - Yes, we are still short in terms of what we expected to come in.
- Colleen Edmunds - Can you clarify the net shortfall of \$50,000, perhaps will give more clarity as to what exactly is the shortfall.
- It seems that by the budget we are short in revenue, but we also didn't give as much to CMU/MCCan as originally budgeted.
- Richard K - The first 3 months of the year were confusing. Budget projections were a best guess. This is also a best guess for how the flow actually happened. This year coming up will be far clearer.

### New reporting formats (Ken W):

- MCM will be sharing staff with MCEC and MCCan to do our bookkeeping and accounts
- We had to let go of longest serving employee, Tom Seals and are deeply grateful for his commitment and diligence.
- Sean East (MCEC) is now our accountant.
- Jessica Schmidt and Laura Zacharias have been seconded from MCCan to assist us oversee accounts and payroll.
- Stephanie Wenger has been seconded to MCCan for administrative duties.
- Camp Assiniboia is creating its own accounts and bookkeeping
- Camp has been frustrated by lack of responsiveness and access to resources
- We will also be changing categories/names for departments to improve transparency and clarity
- This also aligns us with our sister regions in how we categorize/report so we are better able to compare across regions.

### 2019 budget - Richard K (in package - salmon pages)

### Revenue Summary:

- decrease in expectation of congregational giving - we are being a little conservative
- Partner ministry support is included in revenue - this is a big part of what we as MCM are about - down by same proportion as donations
- Camps with Meaning support - difficult to dig this number out in previous system - 125,000 is same as last year, but less than asked for 140,000. The board realizes we are asking camp to do more but with same amount of support. No CWM expenses are included here in new reporting system.

### Expenses Summary:

- New categories noted
- Transfer to reserve = the expected surplus
- Operations: includes severance pay for Tom Seals

### *Adoption of budget moved by Richard Klassen, seconded by Colleen Edmunds*

### Questions arising from the Budget report:

- Could you please explain what is meant by occupancy costs?
- Richard K - This includes things like utilities and upkeep.
- You keep talking about depreciation in our buildings - where is that reflected in the statement?
- Gerald G - In a statement of operations, no depreciation is overtly accounted for except in the reserve fund (32,300 transfer).

- Richard K - It should be part of the occupancy cost, but a large part of buildings is now part of the Camp Assiniboia budget.
  - The people who work for our church are staff but are also part of our congregations. Was letting Tom Seals go part of the plan or was it due to shortfall?
  - Ken W - Tom had mentioned this exact option a few years ago, but it was still a shock to him at this time. How do we honour the life and work of our staff? Tom is a private person - we honoured and celebrated his time with us as staff, and is also reflected in the severance package.
  - About the fund allocation for ministries - by accepting the bottom line, does this mean that the work that Dorothy Fontaine is doing for us continues with same bottom line or are there adjustments to support?
  - Ken W - Dorothy's job is divided into mission and camp - much of her time has been devoted to camp in recent years. She will continue to attend to camp somewhat disproportionately, but we recognize we have work to do on the other part of her work. The church engagement position will also contribute to our mission work.
  - Can you explain the choice of format? We are used to seeing clearly the sources of revenue and then where it goes - why is support included under revenue? Are we expecting 605,000 as revenue and then flow-through?
  - Richard K - No. This format is intended to reflect MCM's values. We put ministry support numbers under revenue - is it an expense? It's actually a philosophical question.
  - So we are listing it is a negative revenue?
  - Richard K - Yes.
  - Column C does not have a title. Also, could you clarify the payroll numbers?
  - Richard K - line 70 - combined Rick and Kathy's salaries
    - line 92 - half of Dorothy's salary has moved to Camps
    - line 114 - half of Darryl's salary has moved to Camps
  - Where were Rick and Dorothy's salaries reported before?
  - Ken W - We had 2 departments that we have now combined under the new reporting system.
  - Does this mean that CWM is not an MCM program any longer? Is it entirely separate? It looks like we are separating.
  - Richard K - We absolutely continue to own CWM. There is 100% commitment from MCM. It just doesn't make sense to micro-manage their budget.
  - Do we then get to see a budget from Camps?
  - Ken W - Yes, in the future we will see a report from both Assiniboia and Koinonia.
- 
- Frohe Botschaft question (Gerald G)
    - Our radio ministry began in 1955 and at one time included 4 programs.
    - Frohe Botschaft is the only one that continues and it is in the budget for 2019.
    - Is this still a relevant priority for our ministry? This is an agenda item for/from the board.
    - Unfortunately short on time now, hopefully we will get to discuss it this afternoon.

## **International Witness update**

- Gerald G - The yellow sheet in your package shows what MCM and MCCan do together.
- Henry Paetkau (MC Canada): A substantial amount of the funds allocated to MCCan goes to International Witness. MCCan funding comes from the 5 regions. Introduced video of our Witness workers.
  - 11 workers in 5 countries
  - Thank you to workers who returned from their assignments this past year
  - Relational funding through Witness Support Teams who would be committed to raise 50% of funding necessary by collaborating with local churches and to communicate and build a relationship with the Workers and Partners.



**Nominations report** (Bob Wiebe)

- presented the slate (light purple sheet) (full listings on p.57, 34-35)
- Committee welcomes reverse nominations - feel free to give us suggestions!

**Acceptance of Slate:**

- *Moved by Bob Wiebe, seconded by Laverne Siemens. Carried*

## Session #3

**Youth Pastors' video highlighting their guiding Scripture texts****Workshop-stimulated agenda:**

- Report on Leadership workshop: (Rick Neufeld)
  - The workshop outlined leadership development and partnerships, particularly with CMU
  - New MDiv program opening at CMU this fall
  - Also outlined opportunities for lay leaders to grow their gifts and skills.
- Report on Camps with Meaning workshop: (Lynell Bergen)
  - Our camps embody connections.
  - 6000 people were hosted at Assiniboia in 2018.
  - Koinonia continuing to be used for summer camp, under management by Boissevain group
  - Programs run include land-based education, this ground, Day Away
  - Introduced new ways to raise some funds - info in packets
- Report on MC Canada workshop: (Michael Pahl)
  - Included some discussion around the transition to the new structure
  - The financial picture becoming clearer - balanced for 2018, reduction in expectations for 2019
  - There are stronger connections being made in regional churches
  - What does leadership development look like on a national level? How do congregations speak into national agenda?
  - Communication - update email is available to those who wish.
  - Thanks were conveyed to Henry Paetkau for his service, announced that Doug Klassen will be stepping in to leadership in summer.
- Comments from the floor:
  - We should add MennoMedia to our partners. They are much appreciated, often invisible, but a significant partner.

**Greetings from AMBS** (Sara Wenger Schenk):

- Lots of change can mean anxiety, but she sees resilience and a readiness to step into our new reality and God's future
- She expressed gratitude for the hard work we are doing, and for our partnership - we are stronger together. Many AMBS grads here today!
- She noted that 44% of MDiv students now study online through the MDiv Connect program.

**Greetings from MC Saskatchewan** (Ryan Siemens):

- MC Sask is 27 congregations seeking to be communities of grace, love and peace.
- "Refresh, Refocus, Renew" with Betty Pries over the past year - has served to deepen our awareness of God's presence in our lives, deepen relationships with each other and with our neighbors around the world.

### **Approval of 2019 budget:**

- Camps with Meaning now has more salaries to cover and less money - what kind of pressure are we adding to our CWM staff? By not meeting our budgets for our partners, what pain are we transferring?
- Ken W - Yes, pressure has been added to camp. But we now have a more realistic sense of what congregations can send us, and we have to try to live within those means.
- Richard K - CWM did ask for more than the board thought we could responsibly offer and the board had to make a difficult decision. We are trying to face reality. We are also offering to take away the fetters from camp, giving them the opportunity to operate within this and to get creative. We have a lot of confidence in David Hogue, Dorothy Fontaine and others to make camp work better financially as we get out of their way.
- I was at the CWM fundraising banquet, where will that money be going in the new system? Through MCM?
- Richard K - That will go directly to camp through personal donations. The fundraising banquet revenue will flow straight to camp budget.
- We are putting pressure on the board to make hard decisions, maybe we need to dig a little deeper.
- The camp committee heard about budget, got a little scared, had a meeting with Ken, and came up with new ways to find money for the camp budget and take pressure off of the board. Some ideas: Club 84 - commit to donate \$20 a month; Oak Grove memberships; Help us Grow - each church sends one more camper to grow our revenue; Camp Sunday fundraisers - commitment from 2 churches per year. We are asking everyone to step up to help out a little bit.
- I haven't been to an AGM in a while, but similarly to years ago we are short on budget. We vote on a budget, and then the next year we find out we didn't meet it. Of what value is it for us to vote and approve the budget if we don't convey that to our church back home? No business can run 11 months in hopes that the money will come in during the last month of the year. Churches need to look at the commitment we are making so MCM can be doing the work.
- Gerald G - I appreciate when delegates draw attention to the realities of budget and encourage your response. I do anticipate that in the next few years what is realistic financially will need to be worked at together.
- I really liked the staff videos, can we share?
- Darryl Neustaedter Barg - They will be available on the news page of the MCM website shortly.

**Budget vote:** *Carried.*

### **Approval of nominations:**

- Bob W - MCCan delegate slate is filled, addition of Erin Morash, Crystal City

**Slate of nominations vote:** *Carried.*

### **Other agenda:**

- Announcement of two upcoming events:
  - June 28 to July 1: MC Canada gathering - "Reigniting our imagination," with guest speaker Elaine Heath
  - The gathering will include a leadership day, delegate sessions and open sessions, as well as a youth gathering.
- Infuse 2019: fall church equipping event to continue to develop healthy congregations
- Second annual on November 2 of this year

**Gerald G thanked Ken for his work as Executive Minister and rest of MCM staff for this day and the work they do all year.**

**Adjourned**

# MCM Representatives to Related Organization Boards

## ORGANIZATIONS RELATED TO MCM

(and MCM Board representatives in *italics*, if applicable)

### **Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary**

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

### **Canadian Mennonite Publishing Service**

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

### **Canadian Mennonite University**

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

*Mark Wiehler 2020*

### **Eden Health Care Services**

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

*Emma Hamm (Hope) 2022*

*Ken Froese (Pembina) 2022*

*Wil Epp (Emmanuel) 2022*

*Lawrence Siemens (Morden) 2021 Cheryl Braun (Glenlea) 2021*

### **Graduate School of Theology and Ministry**

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

*Michael Pahl (Sargent) 2022*

### **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

*Dieter Schonwetter (FGMF) 2022*

*Allison Janzen (First) 2022*

### **Manitoba Multifaith Council**

*Peter J Dyck (Bethel) 2022*

**Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba**

Darryl Loewen, Executive Director, 124 Plaza Dr. Winnipeg, MB R3T 5K9  
Phone: 204-261-6381

*Yvonne Stoesz (Pembina) 2022*

*Kelsey Hutton (Hope) 2022*

**Mennonite Collegiate Institute**

Bernie Loeppky, 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

*Ken Derksen (Sargent) 2022*

**Westgate Mennonite Collegiate**

Bob Hummelt, Principal, 86 West Gate, Winnipeg, MB R3C 2E1  
Phone: 204-775-7111

# Committees

**Ministerial Leadership Committee**

- Erin Morash (Trinity / Crystal City) Chair
- Laverne Siemens (Gretna Bergthaler)
- Harold Schlegel (Covenant)
- Julia Thiessen (Charleswood)
- Harold Peters-Fransen (Elim, Grunthal)
- Brenda Penner (Grace, Steinbach) (term completed)

**Camp Committee**

- Dave Wiebe
- Reynold Friesen
- Myles Tiessen
- Sandy Plett
- Andrew Klassen Brown

**Nominations Committee**

- Bob Wiebe (Charleswood) Chair
- Trevor Stoesz (Altona Bergthaler)
- Ken Kroeker (Morden)
- Nicolien Klassen Wiebe (Charleswood)

# Nominations Slate

Name	Term	Term Expiry
<b>Nominating Committee</b> (Appointed)		
Trevor Stoesz (Altona Bergthaler)	2nd term	March '23
<b>Ministerial Leadership Committee</b> (Appointed)		
Harold Schlegel (Gretna Bergthaler)	2nd term	March '23
Marla Langelotz (Sargent Avenue)	1st term	March '23
<b>Canadian Mennonite Publishing Service</b> (Appointed)		
Ken Reddig (Pinawa Fellowship)	3rd term	March '23
<b>Inter-Mennonite Campus Ministry</b> (Appointed)		
Scott Kroeker (Fort Garry MF)	2nd term	March '23
<b>MCC Manitoba</b> (appointed)		
Kevin Drudge (Covenant)	2nd term	March '23
<b>Eden Health Care Services</b> (appointed)		
Laura Unger (Glenlea)	2nd term	March '23
James Schellenberg (Douglas)	3rd term	March '23
	1st term	March '23
<b>Canadian Mennonite University Council</b>		
Mark Wiehler (Charleswood)	2nd term	March '23
<b>MCM Board of Directors</b> (elected)		
Evelyn Rempel Petkau (Carman)	1st term*	March '23
Isaac Schlegel (Morden)	additional term+	March '21
Cheryl Braun (Glenlea)	1st term	March '23
John Reimer (Whitewater)	1st term*	March '22
<b>MCM Camp Committee</b> (endorsement and appointment)		
The Camp Committed became an official MCM committee in 2018 after approx. 1 year ad hoc status.		
Reynold Friesen	Started Nov 2016	March '21
Dave Wiebe (Springstein)	Started Nov 2016	March '21
Sandy Plett	Started Nov 2017	March '21
Miles Tiessen	Started Jan 2019	March '22
Andrew Klassen Brown (Sterling MF)	1st term	March '23

\*Completed a vacated term. Now beginning first full term.

+Served single year term.

# Our Nationwide Ministry Together

## **The New Covenant**

As of October 2017, a new covenant binds five Regional Churches together to create Mennonite Church Canada. Mennonite Church Manitoba is one of these regions. This is a new and intentional partnership which is bringing us into a new level of community across Canada.

## **Joint Council**

This new covenant is 'governed' by a Joint Council. Each region has two members on the Council: The moderator and one member-at-large. The Executive Minister of Mennonite Church Canada, the national moderator, vice-moderator, and secretary/treasurer make up the balance of the Council. The Executive Staff Group functions ex-officio on the Council. They meet three times per year

## **Executive Staff Group (ESG)**

The ESG is comprised of all the Executive Ministers: Five regional, and one national. This is a critical working group in the new model which meets four to six times per year in person or via video conference.

## **Other regular nationwide staff meetings**

- The regional communicators meet bi-weekly via video conference to discuss regional and nationwide communications.
- A financial working group continues to operate as needed.

## **Nationwide Gatherings**

1. Every Regional Church gathering will include national agenda.
2. Mennonite Church Canada delegates (see below) will meet biannually for a short business meeting.
3. The biannual meeting will also be the Gathering for leaders and representatives from all the churches to learn, discuss, worship and build community.

# Mennonite Church Canada

Doug Klassen, Executive Minister, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd. Winnipeg, MB  
R3P 0M4 204-888-6781

## *National Moderator*

Calvin Quan (Ontario)

## *Joint Council Manitoba reps*

Gerald Gerbrandt (Bethel) 2021

Andrea De Avila (Sargent) 2021

## *Nominating Committee*

Eric Rempel (Steinbach) 2020

Additional tasks for the Nominating Committee: Mennonite Church Canada Biannual Gathering Delegates

- Five from Regional Church (Each RC gets five delegates)
- Nine more members (Each RC also gets 1 delegate per 1000 members)
- Finally each RC sends six of their board members including their moderator and second board member to the Nationwide Church Gatherings (held every two years)



# 2019 Year in Review

*What then did you go out to see? Matthew 11:8*

John the Baptist is so in tune with the Holy Spirit that he leaps in his mother's womb when pregnant Mary enters the house. Before Jesus begins his ministry and long before the cross or its meaning was in view, John proclaims, "Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." But in Matthew 11:2-11 he sits in prison, feeling as though the walls are closing in on him, and he wonders if Jesus really is "the One."

These days it feels like the walls of the Western Church are closing in on themselves. Sometimes we are captives to despair. Seeing our denomination go through restructuring and downsizing can lead us to doubt the One whom we follow. Yet Jesus is at work in the margins,

presence in my work over the past six months:

- I sensed God's healing hand in each one of the nine congregations I preached in this past fall (Springstein, Vineland United Mennonite, Langham, Carman, Altona, Springridge, Lethbridge and Orodara and Bobo-Dioulasso in Burkina Faso). In each church I experienced a genuine invitation to faith in Jesus Christ and the offer of joining the community as it lives into what God is calling it to be. Making these visits is one of the most meaningful parts of my work. I do them with the Joint Council's encouragement and blessing. In several cases I was asked to share during the adult education hour and have received valuable feedback through these interactions. I sincerely look forward to the churches I will be visiting in the New



on the edges, among the unclean (lepers), the sinners ("is this man blind because of his parent's sin?") and in the low places like the Samaritan well in the heat of the day. The poor are coming awake to the mystery, the dead are coming back to life.

In this passage, Jesus asks the crowd an interesting question: "What did you go out to the wilderness to see...someone dressed in soft robes? Those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces." In the churches I visited over the last six months, I found so many people who seek the prophet, who are walking with the One amid the shrill rancor and inane blare of our culture's messaging.

Here are some examples of where I have seen God's

Year.

- I attended the Continuing Education Event and Equipping Day hosted by Mennonite Church Saskatchewan in mid-October. It was an excellent time of learning with Tom Yoder Neufeld, visits with retired pastors and conference supporters at Bethany Manor and worship with the faithful at Langham Mennonite Fellowship. I hope to take in events like these in every region in the coming year.
- "Caterpillars for snack, anyone?" That was the call that came during a break in the Partnership Council meetings with Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission (AIMM) in Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso. Mennonite Church

Canada has had a relationship with AIMM (formerly Congo Inland Mission) since its inception over 100 years ago. Work has expanded to Benin, Burkina Faso and several more countries. My primary purpose was to re-establish Mennonite Church Canada's presence and support with this historic ministry. I brought forward several new joint-project ideas thanks to generous donors who wish to see our ministry continue. I was welcomed with open arms, and caterpillars!

- The Executive Staff Group (myself and the executive ministers from each regional church) and Joint Council continue to draft, revise and complete policies and procedures that guide Mennonite Church Canada's new structure. We continue to work together and are excited to see the vision emerging

of who we are becoming as a nationwide church. Comprised of faithful local congregations, gathered into regional church bodies, we come together as Mennonite Church Canada to form a people of God through relationship-building, partnership and resourcing.

May the God of peace envelop your congregations this New Year. I look forward to another year of witnessing the Spirit at work in our congregations, regional churches and nationwide Body.

Submitted by Doug Klassen  
Executive Minister  
Mennonite Church Canada

## CommonWord

Bookstore and Resource Centre

CommonWord is the resourcing arm of our nationwide church. As the national bookstore and resource centre, we are privileged to have daily interactions with avid readers, small-group leaders, librarians, Cheaper by the Dozen organizers, pastors and others within our Mennonite Church Canada family and across the ecumenical church. We also serve the needs of Canadian Mennonite University on the Shaftesbury campus in Winnipeg, Man. Our unique services give each customer the choice to buy, borrow or access materials online, making Anabaptist and related resources easily accessible – in addition to the cards and Ten Thousand Villages crafts and foods we also offer instore.

Here are several key developments from 2019:

**CommonWord's new partnership with MennoMedia**  
MennoMedia and CommonWord offer complimentary services to help put Anabaptist materials into your hands. This past year we signed a new agreement. With our new partnership, Canadian congregations and individuals:

- buy their periodicals (e.g. *Leader*) and curriculum (e.g. *Shine*) from MennoMedia's new Canadian-dedicated website, [www.mennomedia.ca](http://www.mennomedia.ca) or by calling

1-800-245-7894.

- buy or borrow Herald Press titles from us at discounted prices via [www.commonword.ca](http://www.commonword.ca), [info@commonword.ca](mailto:info@commonword.ca) or 1-877-846-1593.
- pre-order *Voices Together* hymnal products from MennoMedia at 1-800-245-7894.

### CommonRead

As an extension of our partnership with MennoMedia, we started a "nationwide book club," encouraging congregations to read our first selected title, *The Bible Unwrapped* by Meghan Good. We offer a larger discount on this title when quantity orders are placed. Have you joined? For more information, visit [www.commonword.ca/go/1807](http://www.commonword.ca/go/1807).

### CommonWord's upcoming website

We have focused our efforts this past year on a complete overhaul and redesign of our website. The revised site, targeted to be launched in May 2020, will have much better navigation tools, greater search intelligence and a reframed customer interface with better visual cues and images. It will also be mobile friendly.



Since 2016 we have seen our online customer traffic increase by 36 per cent. We expect an enhanced online presence to extend our services even further – nationally, globally and ecumenically.

### **CommonWord's partnership with Together in Worship**

Our website renewal is allowing greater partnerships to emerge. CommonWord was selected to host digital materials curated by Together in Worship, a new bi-national Mennonite steering group committed to providing free online, Anabaptist worship materials. These resources will work in tandem with the *Voices Together* hymnal products we are eagerly anticipating.

### **CommonWord's partnership with Mennonite Central Committee**

A further online partnership with Mennonite Central Committee allows us to share "Abuse Response and Prevention" resources on their recently revised website. Visit <https://abuseresponseandprevention.ca/> if you or your congregation seek resources on abuse, family violence or clergy sexual misconduct.

Overall, we are grateful to report strong numbers in the first three quarters of our current fiscal year which reflect our growing ministry:

- Our sales revenue has grown by 8.2 per cent, including a significant 24 per cent increase in general book sales.
- We expect to again serve over 10,000 retail customers this year (up one per cent from last year's third quarter).
- The number of borrowers has remained the same. The quantity of items borrowed has increased by seven per cent.
- Of items borrowed by Mennonite Church Canada congregations, a record 56 per cent circulated outside Manitoba (up from 49 per cent last year), including increases in MCBC, MCA and MC Sask.

Our staff – Anita Neufeld, AnaSara Rojas, Josh Paetkau and I, together with five volunteers and three CMU students – look forward to connecting with you in 2020. Please stay in touch – there are resources for just about everyone:

- Visit us at [www.commonword.ca](http://www.commonword.ca) to view the 12,000 items we currently have online.

- Follow us on social media (Facebook and Instagram).
- Sign up for our electronic *Curator* e-mail.
- Certainly visit us if you are ever in Winnipeg, Man.

And, help bring CommonWord to your congregation:

- We'd be glad to send a loan display for an event, or a Cheaper by the Dozen order to supplement your library or worship/study series. For more details, see [www.commonword.ca/go/1584](http://www.commonword.ca/go/1584).
- Support your pastor's continuing education fund (or gift a friend/family member) by opening an account at CommonWord. We offer in-store credit for individuals.
- Make your own purchase through CommonWord. We special order most titles we don't regularly stock, and we discount most items.

May you experience the love, peace, joy and hope that we celebrated at Christmas and seek all year long. Blessings to your congregation this New Year!

Submitted by Arlyn Friesen Epp  
Director of CommonWord Bookstore and Resource Centre  
Mennonite Church Canada

# International Witness

**T**ogether as five regional churches and a nationwide body we participate in ministry around the world. Jointly we have given the following parameters for our ministry. Along with each of these is an example of current International Witness ministry that aligns with this focus and is facilitated by Mennonite Church Canada Witness workers. The primary purpose for any initiative will be related to the creation, resourcing or strengthening of Anabaptist/Mennonite faith communities and our shared commitment to witness to God's work in the world. Initiatives will support:

*a. the emergence of new faith communities*

Churches have been present in Thailand for over 500 years yet the Christian percentage is less than 1 per cent. Witness workers Tom and Christine Poovong find that people are searching for spiritual meaning and transformed lives. Together with Thai church planters and pastors they are forming a network of "new believers, new disciples, new churches," where lives are transformed and communities are built to bless their neighbours.

*b. foster the vitality of existing faith communities*

The local church in the northern Chinese city where Witness workers George and Tobia Veith live values the Veiths' input in lay leadership training and Anabaptist teaching. This congregation experienced rapid growth in the 80s and 90s and still struggles to find leaders to walk alongside many growing disciples. Training for young pastors and lay leaders is vital to the health of congregations like this in China.

*c. equip leadership for these communities*

International Witness ministry partner Mennonite Church South Korea holds regular conferences and workshops. Witness worker Bock Ki Kim works together with pastors and leaders to equip them with needed Anabaptist resources, not only for congregations but for the extended community. Kim's recent work is in training educators to use restorative circles in family and school settings to promote healing and effective ways of communication.

*d. enrich disciple-making ministries*

Dann and Joji Pantoja are developing communities of peace builders in Mindanao, Philippines. This involves working with Indigenous leaders in programs of community development. Peace and reconciliation

permeate their work of training in sustainable agricultural development. Dann and Joji give leadership to a growing team working for their organization, PeaceBuilders Community Inc., who work for just peace.

*f. supports communication between the congregations of the regional churches and the wider church, whether nationwide or global.*

For many years St. Jacobs Mennonite Church in Ontario has walked with leaders of the Benin Bible College to support and encourage higher levels of seminary education for congregations in the region. They do this together with Waterford Mennonite Church in Goshen, Ind., bringing believers together from three countries to learn together and support each other.

## IW Staff change

Jason Martin stepped down as director at the end of July 2019. We are thankful for his faithful service during difficult years of transition.

## Witness Support Teams to transition to Witness Support Networks

Using feedback gained through the formation of the Witness Support Team (WST) model, International Witness is currently transforming WSTs into Networks of sustainable support for our Witness programs. These will build upon many years of faithful giving to international ministry from congregations. Instead of relying on individual members, these networks will be congregationally based. Congregations will be invited into closer relationship with Witness workers and their international ministries. This is a wonderful expression of our Canadian congregations working together in relationship with fellow followers of Jesus across the world.

## More info on the new Mennonite Church Canada website in 2020

Comprehensive descriptions of the Mennonite Church Canada International Witness ministries will be available on a new web platform launching in the New Year for the nationwide and regional churches. Watch for this!

Submitted by Jeanette Hanson  
Interim International Witness Director  
Mennonite Church Canada

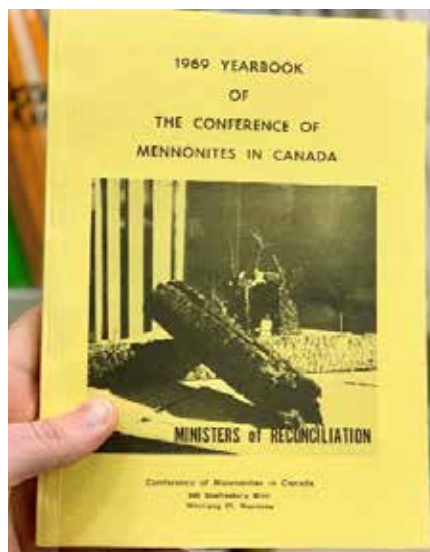
# Indigenous-Settler Relations

Fifty years ago, the Conference of Mennonites in Canada gathered in Saskatoon and passed a resolution addressing the White Paper, an Indian policy crafted under Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau that sought not only to eliminate the Indian Act, but also Treaty and Aboriginal rights, all in the name of “the just society.” Moved by the cries and protests of Indigenous people, the delegate body of Canadian Mennonites gently called on the federal government “to listen sensitively to the Indian people, [and] to allow them ample time to voice their concerns and alternatives.”

Delegates also “whole-heartedly” endorsed interchurch efforts to address larger social and economic issues impacting Indigenous people, and invited congregations to get involved.

That was in 1969. Today, in 2019, Indigenous-Settler Relations (ISR) continues this work of solidarity. Through advocacy, education, prayer and movement organizing, we champion—alongside Indigenous organizations, human rights bodies, and other faith communities—the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* as the framework for reconciliation in Canada.

For the last five years, Mennonite Church Canada has supported Bill C-262, a private member’s bill crafted by Romeo Saganash (Cree former MP for Abitibi—Baie-James—Nunavik—Eeyou) that set out to harmonize Canada’s laws with the *Declaration*. Congregations hosted teach-ins on Indigenous rights; Sunday schools sent postcards to the Senate; youth and student groups participated in long walks; and Indigenous-Settler Relations organized rallies, hunger fasts, ecumenical



missives and more in support of the bill. Miraculously (only a few of us thought it could happen), 262 was passed by the House of Commons in May 2018. But on June 21, 2019,—Indigenous Peoples Day—the bill was struck down in the Senate by Conservative senators. It was heartbreaking. We were so close. Yet hope was not gone. Things changed. So many Canadians and so many Christians came to know how important and life-giving the *Declaration* is, and so did The Powers That Be. From that point on, the Liberals, NDP and Green Party knew that the right thing to do was to champion policy that supported Indigenous Peoples’ basic human rights.

On Nov. 27, 2019, the government of British Columbia took an incredible step for right relations by passing Bill 41—legislation based explicitly on C-262 that affirms

the application of the Declaration as a legal framework. Then, on Dec. 5, the Governor General announced that the federal government will put forth legislation to implement the Declaration by the end of 2020. Such good news! But, following the wisdom of Indigenous colleagues, we will not celebrate until federal legislation is actually

drafted and passed in the Senate. Like our Mennonite grandparents from 50 years ago, we will gently and boldly encourage the government to do right by Indigenous Peoples. We will continue to pray, write letters, create learning opportunities and organize committed action until the *Declaration* is fully adopted and

implemented for the well-being of all nations and all people in these lands.

As director of Indigenous-Settler Relations, I am so proud



to continue Mennonite Church Canada's tradition of solidarity work with, and on behalf of, our community. We are making a difference, and I lift my hands to you, my church family, in honour of your faithfulness.

Here are some encouraging highlights from our 2019 ISR journey:

- The Treaty Walk, co-created by the Health Sciences Association of Alberta, Indigenous-Settler Relations, and Dr. Pat Makokis, was a two-week-long walk from Edmonton to Calgary to raise awareness of Treaty relationships. Folks on the walk facilitated conversation circles in a dozen churches and community centres by bringing together Indigenous people, union workers and members of faith communities in intercultural and international friendship. A big thank you to Allegra Friesen Epp who, through her Canadian Mennonite University practicum, served as student intern in the ISR office and was a key organizer for this initiative.



- Three new video resources were created in partnership with ISR: Treaty Walk, This Fight Continues: 262 & The Declaration, and Demand 1: Adopt the Declaration.
- ISR facilitated a delegation of 15 Mennonites from across the country to participate in NAIITS: An Indigenous Learning Community's Symposium on "Land and Place" at Tyndale University College in Toronto, Ont.
- Steve serves as sponsoring body representative for Mennonite Church Canada on the Christian Peacemaker Teams Steering Committee, and is currently vice-chair of CPT.
- Steve served as week-long Bible and decolonization teacher at the Quakers' Canadian Yearly Meeting in Winnipeg at Canadian Mennonite University in August.



- In support of the Global Climate Strike on Sept. 27, ISR coordinated two interfaith prayer gatherings and helped mobilize Christian communities for participation. Indigenous reconciliation is a key component to these ecological grassroots movements; the implementation of UNDRIP is understood to be step one toward a sustainable and just economy.
- ISR issued another print run of *Unsettling the Word: Biblical Experiments in Decolonization*. Paperback editions are now available through CommonWord. This resource continues to be used in a variety of congregational and class contexts, both settler and Indigenous.



Submitted by Steve Heinrichs  
Director of Indigenous-Settler Relations  
Mennonite Church Canada

## The MENNONITE CHURCH BRITISH COLUMBIA (MCBC) Story for 2019

### Submitted by Garry Janzen

*Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Colossians 3:12*

The primary role of MCBC is to partner with and provide resources for our local MCBC congregations in order that they may thrive. Mennonite Church British Columbia exists to help congregations be *Anabaptist, Missional, and Connected*.

As an initiative to develop our capacity in being a missional Anabaptist church, eight representatives from MCBC participated in a Nationwide Mennonite Church Mission Consultation in Calgary at the end of March. A piece that we took home to remember and work on in MCBC is that *we are a people who are the dearly loved of God*. Betty Pries, a speaker at the consultation, said that we are in a season of reknitting our relationship with God. A sobering reflection shared by Jared Siebert, another one of the resource people, is that while we are planting and watering, God is not giving the growth - God is not giving an increase to our efforts. It is not because we are unfaithful that we are not seeing the growth in our churches that we would hope for. In fact, this could be a time when we are most ready to see God working.

A 2019 highlight for MCBC was to host the first Mennonite Church Canada Nationwide Gathering since restructuring in 2017. This was held on the July long weekend in Abbotsford. Fire starters were a great feature of the Gathering. These were brief stories of how God is igniting the imagination of the church in different ways and in many places across the country – as pointers to the local congregation as the place where the real life of the church happens.

In our International Witness connection, we are growing a relationship with Evangelical Mennonite Church Vietnam and Mennonite Cambodia Church. In late March, I spent five days in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, teaching the Mennonite Cambodia Church congregation what it means to be an Anabaptist Christian. I spent five more days doing the same teaching in Ho Chi Minh City with 45 pastors, representing 40 congregations of the Evangelical Mennonite Church Vietnam. Five of these pastors from Vietnam attended the closing service of the Nationwide Gathering in Abbotsford. We now have one MCBC congregation exploring a relationship with the Vietnam church.

The proposal is to sell the property of the former Clearbrook Mennonite Church. Our delegates called for MCBC to put forward a plan as to how the resulting funds would be used before voting positively on the proposal to sell. The Funds Discernment Task Group has been testing ideas with the MCBC constituency; they will be bringing a plan for the funds to the MCBC Annual Gathering in February of 2020.

Five years ago, MCBC went through a reimagining process that came up with three key themes that represent our values: Anabaptist Identity, Missional Community and Building Connections. A task group has been working at restructuring MCBC's ministries to reflect these themes. There is also an emphasis to be more efficient with our call for volunteers and to make each position more meaningful. Our aim is to have a more functional structure.

We said goodbye to Church of the Way in Granisle, as they have joined another denomination. We are also bringing forward an application from a new Vietnamese congregation seeking to join MCBC.

We are in the midst of many pastoral transitions in our congregations, and we are walking with them in discerning new leadership. With this comes much valuable time spent in prayer, interviews and installation services. We are also working with our congregations towards having all our pastors credentialed. We have two credentials: Ordination and Licencing for Specific Ministry.

We had a wonderful time with Meghan Larissa Good, author of The Bible Unwrapped: Making Sense of Scripture Today as our resource person at our annual Pastor/Spouse Retreat.

Our key theme of building connections with and among our congregations happened through: our Symphony of Hymns fundraising concerts with Calvin Dyck, gatherings with our congregational chairs, a Peace Sunday Service that brought together five Vancouver area congregations, and building relationships with our Indigenous neighbours through the work of Bridget Findlay in our partnership with Mennonite Central Committee British Columbia (MCC BC). We are also seeking to be meaningfully present where there have been strained relationships.

It makes sense that there would be an Anabaptist presence in every community in BC. We are not quite there yet. In our exploration of a potential church plant in Powell River, we learned that they aren't looking to have a Mennonite congregation, but there is an Anabaptist presence through those who are involved with the MCC BC Thrift Shop.

I just want to close with a word of appreciation for Ken Ha. He is the chair of our Church Health Committee. He has been working hard at recruiting new committee members. He is always available for a new pastor or credentialing interview. He has travelled with me to many church visits around BC; he has gone to worship with congregations on his own, and he is always willing to help out where he can. Thanks Ken.

In 2020, we are looking forward to learning about Mental Health at our LEAD Conference on February 28<sup>th</sup>. We are also looking forward to providing a taste of the global Anabaptist-Mennonite church in Abbotsford on March 28–29, 2020. This is part of a series of annual events around the world in preparation for the Mennonite World Conference Renewal 2027 gathering. Hopefully many of you can join in these opportunities.



January 15, 2020



## 2019 Annual Report



Bridge to Valaqua chapel. Photo by Chad Miller

### Executive Council

Brenda Tiessen-Wiens	Moderator
Paul Neufeldt	Vice-Moderator
Wayne Janz	Finance
Elizabeth Wall	Secretary
Tim Wiebe-Neufeld	Executive Minister

### CommonWord

Bookstore and Resource Centre

MCA now has a special web page dedicated to resources for **Year 1: Encountering, Embracing, Embodying Christ in life.**

[www.commonword.ca/go/1879](http://www.commonword.ca/go/1879)

### Web Launch

With the new website launching on February 11, MCA will also be changing domain names—something simpler—**mcab.ca**.

To ease transition, overlap of addresses will occur.

In our northern climate, the changing of the seasons is a natural part of life. The season of waiting for “God with us” is followed by an exploration of Jesus’ manifestation and purpose, drawing us to a deeper sense of our own calling. The nudges and urges that arise in this season of new beginnings invite us to live out our call together with others, in community. “Community” is what MCA is about!

In community, our twelve congregations build a foundation for their identity and find a place of belonging. We draw on each other’s strengths and gifts to explore faith, pray, celebrate and mourn, become enlivened, practice generosity, and share resources. Community is a place to receive and to give. It’s a place to ask the question, “And who is my neighbour?” and then explore the nature and breadth of our neighbourhoods. The richness and fellowship that



Brenda Tiessen-Wiens  
MCA Moderator

we experience as members of a regional, nationwide, and global church is a taste of the Kingdom of God.

### Staff & Ministries



No where are seasons more evident than at **Camp Valaqua! Jon Olfert (Director) and Jeff Schellenberg (Manager)** provide year-round leadership to Camp, which invited over 2000 people for exploration, renewal, peace, and inspiration in 2019. Camp provides service and leadership opportunities for a wide range of people. Children of all ages plug into God’s creation and develop life-long connections with one another.

Through her work with **North Edmonton Ministries (NEM), Donna Entz (Mission Worker)** provides opportunities to engage with people from a variety of faith backgrounds.

NEM is about building: building relationships, building community, and building bridges of understanding. Dialogues, English classes, book clubs, gardening and countless cups of tea provide places of centring, belonging and exploration. We celebrated with Donna this year as she was honoured with Canadian Mennonite University’s Distinguished Alumni Award!

Much of our administrative team’s work is behind the scenes to support congregations and to bridge our local, nationwide and global ministries. In 2019, **Tim**



**Wiebe-Neufeld (Executive Minister)** worked with congregations in support of church leadership, including the credentialing of ministry leaders, walking alongside during times of pastoral transition, and providing resources and guidance during challenges that come with living in community. Tim also liaises with the many ministry arms of the Mennonite Church and works together with the Executive Staff Group (ESG) to shape the work and vision of MC Canada.

MCA congregations have expressed a desire to connect more deeply with one another. We do this when we share about God’s presence and leading. You can find MCA, nationwide and international stories by subscribing to **The MCA Communiqué**

([www.mennonitechurch.ab.ca](http://www.mennonitechurch.ab.ca)). **June Miller (Communications)** works at these connections and is involved in the roll-out of new websites for MC Canada, Regional Churches and participating congregations, rolling out February 11, 2020

The third member of our administrative team is **Tany**



**Warkentin (Treasurer)**. While Tany’s tasks largely centre around keeping track of numerical details, her broad perspective provides a bridge between MCA staff, committees and programs, and also keeps us connected in our relationships and commitments with the nationwide church.

We are moving from [mennonitechurch.ab.ca](http://mennonitechurch.ab.ca) to [mcab.ca](http://mcab.ca)





**MCA committees\*** are made up of a dedicated group of 24 volunteers who work with staff to add hands, feet and vision to our ministries. The best place to meet everyone at the same time and discover more about each committee's scope is at our delegate sessions in Edmonton, March 20-21, 2020. Delegate or guest, everyone is invited!

\*Committees include: Congregational Leadership, Program & Festival, Community Building, Camp Valaqua, Mission & Service, Nominating, Personnel, Finance, & Executive.

**Interested in being a part of the bigger vision?** Contact Ruth Friesen for more information.  
(ruthdavisfriesen@gmail.com)



Pictured: Top to Bottom: Congregational Leadership, Community Building, Mission & Service, Executive

In 2018 and 2019, the Vision 20/20 process led us through a deeper understanding of our time and place in the cycles of the Church. Vision Gatherings were both reflective and stimulating. We're excited about Vision outcomes and possibilities that the next three years will offer as we explore, "Encountering, Embracing, Embodying Christ in life, in community, in the world." Watch for reflections and opportunities to delve into "Deepening our faith; engaging in prayer and spiritual practices" throughout 2020. Resources are available on our website.



## Our nationwide church

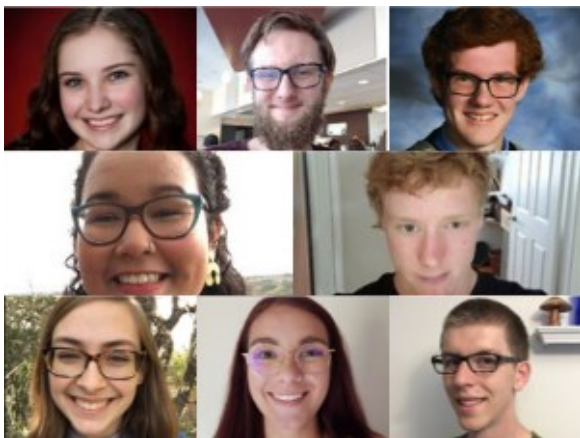
Through **MC Canada**, we work with other **Regional Churches** to do programs such as **International Witness** and **Indigenous Settler Relations**. In addition to nine **Witness Workers** in four countries, we work with mission partners to support ministries in seven additional locations. We partner with **Canadian Mennonite University** to offer an array of resources through **CommonWord**, we support education and leadership development at our **Anabaptist/Mennonite educational institutions**, we are a resource to pastors and church leaders, and we participate in ecumenical gatherings. We relish the relationships that help us to grow in our global community!

## Thank You!

Invariably, when I meet the people of MCA at meetings, at faith studies, congregational celebrations, Trivia Nights or equipping sessions, I see eyes spark, I hear creative ideas, and I become fired with a shared energy and passion. Whether we're talking about personal spiritual journeys, congregational outreach, or relationship boundaries, people are striving to learn from each other and to grow together. Our seasons and our journeys are not ours to walk alone. Through the church we bind ourselves to one another. Thank you for being church together!

*B. Friesen*

## 2019 Bursary Recipients



Each year Mennonite Church Alberta offers bursaries to post-secondary students attending an Anabaptist institution. The application deadline each year is July 31. Watch the website for 2020-2021 school year application.

The recipients for 2019-2020 school year are as follows:

**Top row:** Anne Retzlaff—CBC; Jaden Krahn—CMU; Bradley Wiebe—CMU; **Middle row:** Claire Dueck—CBC; Bryant Neufeldt—CMU; **Bottom row:** Olivia Neufeldt—CMU; Cassidy Brown—CMU; Darian Weibe-Neufeld—CMU

**Trivia Night Feb 8**  
A Camp Valaqua Fundraiser  
Calgary and Edmonton

**MCA Women's Retreat June 5-7**  
Sunnyside Retreat Centre  
Sylvan Lake, AB

**Annual Delegate Sessions March 20-21**  
First Mennonite Church  
Edmonton, AB

Visit  
**mcab.ca**  
for more details

## MC Sask Report to Regional Churches

Mennonite Church Saskatchewan (MC Sask) is a community of 27 congregations who have covenanted together to be Christ Centred and Sent. We support each other in ministry, do things together which we cannot do alone, be church together throughout the province and connect to the larger Mennonite Church body through Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite World Conference. We are a mixture of small and large congregations living in urban and rural communities; our smallest being 19 members and our largest 260. About 40 per cent of our congregations average 40 worshipers or less. We are served by 29 active pastors and two chaplains (plus two more on Maternity/Parental Leave). Of this group, 16 are female, 15 are male and 30 per cent are under the age of 40. MC Sask is blessed with this current mix of pastoral leadership who enjoy serving, supporting, and laughing together.

Throughout 2019, MC Sask continued on our three-year *Deepening* journey as we *Deepened our Walk with Each Other*. We walked with each other in a variety of ways:

- at our Annual Delegate Session with David Fitch in March;
- a worship series based on Fitch's *Faithful Presence* material, developed by several MC Sask pastors (available at [mcsask.ca](http://mcsask.ca));
- Regional Worship Services and a workshop with the *Voices Together* hymnal committee in June;
- a Continuing Education Event focused on our *Life Together* with Tom Yoder Neufeld in October;
- and at our annual Equipping Day, in which we engaged our deepening theme.

Outside of these "formal" MC Sask gatherings, we continue to walk with each other when congregations join together for worship services, when pastors gather monthly for Pastor Peer meetings, and when we serve together on Committees and Commissions both within MC Sask and beyond.

In Fall 2019, MC Sask partnered with Canadian Mennonite University and Susanne Guenther Loewen (Co-Pastor at Nutana Park Mennonite Church) to provide a graduate level course called *Peace, Violence & The Atonement*. We are looking forward to continuing this partnership with CMU to provide another graduate level course starting January 9, 2020, called *Mission in Perspective*, led by Josh Wallace.

Looking ahead to 2020, MC Sask is excited to welcome Arli Klassen, Coordinator of Regional Representatives for Mennonite World Conference and Moderator of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, as our guest speaker at the MC Sask Annual Delegate Sessions, March 13 and 14, 2020 in Saskatoon. The 2020 ADS theme *Deepening our Walk with Each Other & The World* will conclude this year's focus and move us into *Deepening our Walk with our Neighbours*. This will be a weekend of singing, fellowship and reflection, reminding us we are connected to a worldwide body of faith through Mennonite World Conference. But even more than that, "World" has double meaning in this theme. To quote from the MC Sask *Refresh, Refocus, Renew* final report:

***Deepening our Walk with our Neighbours:*** We are being called to turn our faces toward the world, working for wholeness (shalom), joy and reconciliation. (year 3). While our whole journey is missional in nature, we want to take time to focus our energies on how we are being called "to love our neighbours as ourselves." What does this look like practically? To what new (or old) thing is God calling us?

As 27 congregations located in 27 neighbourhoods and communities throughout Saskatchewan, we are well placed to bear witness to the grace and peace of Christ in our time.

In Christ,  
Ryan Siemens



Executive Minister, Mennonite Church Saskatchewan



# MCEC

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)

## **2019 in Ministry**



*"I encourage us to become more aware of God's Presence within and among us, so that in living more deeply into that Presence, we become the very living, breathing Presence of God in our world."*

- David Martin, MCEC Executive Minister, 2019

### **Leadership Development and Support**

"The Regional Ministry Associate role has brought more attention to the listening and caring elements of support for our pastors," says Al Rempel, Regional Minister. Kevin Derksen, Cathrin van Sintern-Dick and Roberson Mbayamvula intentionally provide pastoral care and support for pastors through their role as Regional Ministry Associates. Each RMA ministers part-time in a distinct geographic region. The RMAs, along with Marilyn Rudy-Froese, Church Leadership Minister, and Al Rempel form the church leadership team and attend to the care of pastors.



**Regional Ministry Associates work together to provide pastoral care and support to pastors across MCEC.**

### **Congregational Renewal**

"I've been in church all of my life and I think this has been one of the most impactful frameworks for being church together," says Kelly Freeman, member of West Hills Mennonite Church in Baden, ON and participant in ReLearning Community, a two-year spiritual journey that encourages us to question our assumptions about discipleship as we engage those around us with the gospel story. Twenty-two MCEC congregations have been, or are currently, a part of ReLearning Community.

### **Two Congregations Become Full Members**

#### **• Markham Christian Worship Centre, Markham, ON**

"As a church we are here to sow the seed and make disciples. It is God who brings the growth," says Pastor Kapilan Savarimuthu. With roots in Sri Lanka, this predominantly Tamil congregation moved into full membership with MCEC in April 2019. They meet regularly for worship, prayer throughout the week and have an active ministry in local hospitals praying with patients.

#### **• Refuge de Paix, Sherbrooke, QC**

This small congregation in Sherbrooke, QC worships in Spanish and offers settlement and assistance ministry to Hispanic migrants who have arrived in Quebec. "Most of the people that we see do not have family here," says Pastor Lucy Roca. "We welcome, encourage, accompany and help them according to their needs – to be a testimony of help and concern in caring for our brothers and sisters."



**MCEC - 12,500 members - 104 congregations**



### Resources for faith formation and leadership development

#### Academic programs

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 our learning community and deepen your understanding of Scripture, faith and Anabaptist theology!

- **Study at a distance**
  - **Master of Divinity Connect** (online and hybrid courses)
  - **Master of Arts: Theology and Global Anabaptism** (fully online)
  - **Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies** (fully or partially online; customizable)
- **Study on campus**
  - **Master of Divinity Campus**
  - **Master of Arts in Christian Formation**
  - **Master of Arts: Theology and Peace Studies**
  - **Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies**  
[ambs.ca/academics](https://ambs.ca/academics)
- **Financial aid:** AMBS offers generous need-based financial aid, grants and scholarships to help make your education affordable. [ambs.ca/financialaid](https://ambs.ca/financialaid)
- **A collaborative arrangement** between AMBS and Conrad Grebel University College allows Canadian students to complete a Master of Theological Studies at Grebel/University of Waterloo and apply eligible course credits toward a Master of Divinity at AMBS. [ambs.ca/grebel](https://ambs.ca/grebel)
- **Canadian students pay tuition at par** and can exchange up to \$1,200 CAD at par with U.S. dollars each semester to use for living expenses. Students in a graduate program at Canadian Mennonite University or Conrad Grebel University College receive a **50-percent tuition discount** for all online classes. [ambs.ca/admissions/canadians](https://ambs.ca/admissions/canadians)
- **Want to explore seminary study?** Take an online, campus or hybrid class, even if you're not yet admitted to AMBS, and your first class is 50 percent off! Check out our upcoming offerings: [ambs.ca/onecourse](https://ambs.ca/onecourse)
- **Experience AMBS:** Visit our campus to learn more about all that AMBS has to offer. [ambs.ca/visit](https://ambs.ca/visit)
- **!Explore: A Theological Program for High School Youth:** Students can explore ministry and develop their leadership gifts in this annual summer program. Tap a shoulder! [ambs.ca/explore](https://ambs.ca/explore)

#### AMBS statistics

- In 2019–20, AMBS's graduate student body included 58 U.S. students, eight Canadian students and 22 international students.
- The 2019 graduating class comprised 13 men and seven women from nine countries on five continents. Nine of the graduates completed at least part of their seminary studies at a distance.
- In 2019–20, 24 students are enrolled in Journey in Canada, Southeast Asia, Tanzania and the U.S.

*We thank God for your support and ask for your prayers as we prepare leaders for the church!*

#### Lifelong learning

AMBS's Church Leadership Center offers various nondegree options for you to continue your education and strengthen your leadership skills:

- **Online short courses:** Join the forum discussions in these annual six-week online courses and grow in your understanding of Anabaptist history, thought and witness. No grades, no papers! CEUs available.
  - Exploring Anabaptist History and Theology
  - Exploring Peace and Justice in the Bible
  - Understanding Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture
  - Transforming Congregational Conflict and Communication[ambs.ca/shortcourses](https://ambs.ca/shortcourses)
- **Pastors and Leaders 2021** (March 1–4)
- **Leadership Clinics** (March 1, 2021)  
[ambs.ca/pastorsandleaders](https://ambs.ca/pastorsandleaders)
- **Journey: A Missional Leadership Development Program:** This 2-1/2-year-nondegree program offers mentor-mentee partnerships, distance-learning opportunities and community support. Open to all who are exploring ministry!  
[ambs.ca/journey](https://ambs.ca/journey)
- **Spiritual Direction Seminars:** Cultivate your ministry of spiritual direction through this supervised program. [ambs.ca/seminars](https://ambs.ca/seminars)

AMBS: Rooted in the Word, Growing in Christ | March 2020  
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## CANADIAN MENNONITE

## 2019 Report to MC Manitoba

Thank you for reading *Canadian Mennonite*! Whether you read the magazine on paper or on your mobile device; whether you visit our website, follow us on social media or not; whether you write letters, post comments, discuss the articles at church or not; we are grateful that you connect with our national church family through *Canadian Mennonite*. There are approximately 10,000 households across Canada who are reading it with you.

The mission of *Canadian Mennonite* is to educate, inspire, inform and foster dialogue on issues facing Mennonites in Canada. To do this, we carry stories of congregations and the people in our communities. We see how members of our church family carry out their lives as disciples of Christ. These are stories of love in action; of doing good; of witnessing for peace and justice.

*Canadian Mennonite* published 26 issues in 2019, including four that were emailed out as digital-only issues. Each subscriber is welcome to receive digital delivery and keep the print magazine coming by mail. To add digital issues to your subscription, email Lisa Jacky at [office@canadianmennonite.org](mailto:office@canadianmennonite.org).



**Nicolien  
Klassen-Wiebe**

Manitoba was well-represented in *Canadian Mennonite* in 2019. Correspondent Nicolien Klassen-Wiebe published 49 articles and photos, covering ministries of Manitoba congregations, camps, and schools, and profiling artists and visionaries. Ken Warkentin, Dorothy Fontaine and Darryl Neustaedter Barg contributed to the From Our Leaders column. Two Manitoba authors, Karl Koop and Gerald Ens, published feature articles. Numerous individuals sent in letters to the editor or contributed other articles and photos. Will Braun continued as Senior Writer. Aaron Epp took on a full-time role as Online Media Manager and Melissa Miller retired from writing her long-time column "Family Ties".

The content of *Canadian Mennonite* is focused on our church body, but the internet has made us aware that *Canadian Mennonite* also has a role in representing the church to the general public. Online, more than 4,000 people visit the CM website each week. The vast majority of visitors are not connected to a Mennonite Church but are searching for news and information about Mennonite thought and practice. We are grateful that the magazine offers a witness about our faith beyond the Mennonite church family and we thank you for your support.

### Ways to connect

- **Subscribe** to the print or digital edition, or both. If you attend an MCM congregation, subscription fees are paid for collectively through the church. Contact your church office for details.
- **Sign up** for "CM Now"—a free, biweekly email with links to recent stories.
- **Write** letters or web comments in response to articles.
- **Follow** CM on Facebook and Twitter.

### Financial overview

**Annual budget:** \$815,000

**Revenue:** Subscriptions (church and individual) generate 1/3 of revenue. The remainder comes from advertising, donations, and a federal grant that supports Canadian content in magazines.

**Expenses:** Content creation (writing, editing, layout) accounts for 61% of costs. Printing and postage account for 27%. Administration, including website management, accounts for 12% of expenses.



CANADIAN MENNONITE UNIVERSITY

## 2019-2020 Fall Enrolment

**763 students** Shaftesbury campus  
(646 FTE)

**650 Undergraduate**

**77 Graduate**

**36 Outtatown**

**75%** Manitoba; **25%** other provinces  
and international

**37%** Mennonite (MC, MB, EMC...)

**46%** Ecumenically Diverse (Baptist and  
Pentecostal to Catholic and Orthodox)

**17%** Disclose no church connection

Includes **109** International students  
from **31** countries

**271 FTE Menno Simons College**

(CMU programming at U Winnipeg)

## A Faith-Nurturing University Community

• **Outtatown** 20 years of helping students  
learn to *Know God, Know themselves, and  
Know the world.*

• **Chapels** 3 times weekly, centred on Isaiah  
6:3 *Holy, holy, holy is the Lord.*

• **Biblical and Theological Studies**  
(BTS) are part of the learning of all students.  
18 credit hour minimum of BTS in all  
undergraduate degrees, along with BA  
Majors in Biblical and Theological Studies  
and Christian Ministry.

### • Graduate School of Theology and Ministry (GSTM)

- Anabaptist-ecumenical seminary  
in a Canadian context
- Partnership with MB Seminary
- Includes livestreamed and intensive  
(one week) course delivery

### • MA Christian Ministry, MA Theological Studies, Master of Divinity with commitments to:

- Learning and formation
- Calling and vocation
- Reflection and praxis
- Discernment for specific ministry

• **57** students presently enrolled  
(26 MA Theological Studies; 23 MA Christian  
Ministry; 6 MDiv; 2 Certificate)

- **17** Mennonite Church; **17** Mennonite  
Brethren; **3** EMC; **20** other denominations

**Livestreaming:** Access various courses,  
lectures, Face2Face conversations, Athletics  
...wherever you are!

## Greetings from Canadian Mennonite University



### CMU Mission

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

### Highlights below of how this mission is expressed through the Four CMU Commitments.

#### Modeling Invitational Community: Integrating faith and life

- In the words of **Mackenzie Nicolle, BA Social Sciences, Rosthern, Saskatchewan**  
"Universities like CMU are important. CMU invites students to think about the  
big picture, to develop critical and constructive thinking, to understand ideas  
from the context of many disciplines working together, and to learn  
collaboration with others. CMU also invites commitments to faith and to the  
church—commitments infused into all parts of the university. Multiple times each  
week we gather in conversation, prayer and worship. Our professors invite students  
into the intersection of faith and science, the links between psychology and belief  
systems, and the connections between films, stories and the Bible. All this creates a  
diverse learning community where care for one another and inspiration to act in  
love in the broader world, are paramount."

#### Educating for Peace-Justice: Seeking the Flourishing of All

- Through a **holistic university experience**, students engage a future with hope,  
and seek a bold imagination in relation to deep concerns of today: ecological health,  
mental health, vocational health, economic health, political health.
- The learning continues off campus through 41 **Portable CMU** topics, which  
strengthen ministry-witness in congregations across Canada.

#### Learning through Thinking and Doing: Educating for Vocation

- Through interdisciplinary learning and a longstanding service and work-integrated  
**practicum program**, every degree student deepens **vocational discernment** towards  
careers in ministry, medicine, farming, law, business, education, social services ... and  
more. This applies to all programs in all 19 BA majors, as well as the BBA, BSc, BMus  
and BMusTherapy.

#### Practising Generous Hospitality and Dialogue: Reconciliation

- This year CMU welcomed over **40 Indigenous students**
- The **GSTM** and the **Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre** (a ministry training  
centre dedicated to Aboriginal theological education) are working together  
in ministry training.
- Senator Mary Jane McCallum will be recognized in April with the **CMU PAX Award**  
for her decades of commitment to social justice with, and for, indigenous peoples.
- **face2face** conversations (in-person and livestreamed) focus on issues of faith and life  
- this winter on *'Us and Them: How have we become so polarized?'*

**cmu.ca**





toll-free: 1.866-895-2919  
 tel: 204 325-5355  
 fax: 204 325-8742  
 e-mail: ehcs@edenhealthcare.ca

## Annual Report

Greetings,

An important part of my role as CEO is connecting with people across our community and listening to their perspectives on mental health care. We hear uplifting stories about our staff changing lives and the importance of our programs and services, but we also hear about the challenges. One of these challenges is the lack of coordination, continuity or collaboration throughout the organization and across the mental health system. That needs to change. This year, we set in motion a vision to transform how we bring mental health care to our community. Eden Health Care Services will become an organization without walls to deliver the right care, at the right time, at the right place, in collaboration with partners across the region.

We have enhanced innovative approaches like telemedicine services that help to reduce the strain on emergency rooms and built non-traditional partnerships like the one with Southern Health Santé Sud to have one mental health director and one mental health program. We have also created multiple stakeholder partnerships like the one with Central Station and Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) to deliver a Recovery College. At the same time, our well-established inpatient, outpatient, and community mental health teams, and counselling and employment services continue to provide programs and services to individuals where it is needed most. These community-based services and partnerships are key to creating an organization without walls. We are organizing ourselves to bring about change and have executed other changes throughout the year.

A partnership  
of Manitoba  
Mennonite  
churches and  
Southern Health  
- Santé Sud

- Introduction of security services and participation in the provincial safety and security review in June 2019 has allowed us to better meet the needs of residents of Southern Manitoba. In 2019, the total number of admissions to the inpatient unit was 268 with an average occupancy of 71%. Most clients were ages 18-34 and had a primary residence in Southern Manitoba, followed by Winnipeg and Interlake.
- Relunched the Positive Living Program in Steinbach and strengthened partnerships to enhance the connection to the community.
- Increased availability of private counselling services through Recovery of Hope in Winnipeg and Winkler and increased the scope of work to include addictions.
- Reviewed housing programs and services to ensure efficient and effective service delivery. Core components of these reviews included evidence informed practices and policies to improve occupancy rates, internal and external coordination, processes and structures, clinical services, access to services, engagement and retention. During the initial stages of the review from 2018 to 2019, occupancy rates increased at Linden Place from 28% to 75% and Concordia Village IV from 77% to 84%.
- Added resources to the Wellness Library in Steinbach which serves hundreds of clients and individuals from 32 different communities. The topics of highest interest/usage included addictions, anxiety, inspirational, Indigenous Peoples, parenting and booking for children and youth.

I am incredibly proud of our work over the past year and our team of skilled and dedicated clinicians, physicians, staff, volunteers and board members who have made it all possible. We are committed to our current momentum with a strong focus on patients and families and strengthening partnerships that can help us translate our vision that individuals on their mental health journey experience "hope, healing, and community" into reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kym Kaufmann".

Kym Kaufmann  
CEO Eden Health Care Services

a member of the eden health care family — [edenhealthcare.ca](http://edenhealthcare.ca)

# Inter-Mennonite Chaplaincy Association

Inter-Mennonite Chaplaincy Association (IMCA) is a ministry at the University of Manitoba Fort Garry campus, shared by three Mennonite conferences (MCM, EMC and EMMC). Operating out of a space known as the “Menno Office” in room 102D in the University Centre, IMCA serves students, faculty and staff by providing an Anabaptist presence and half time Chaplain on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

The Menno Office is a regular gathering place for a number of students who attend or have roots in congregations from various Mennonite conferences. It also attracts students with other denominational ties as well as those who have no church connections but are drawn by the inviting atmosphere, the music, food and conversation. The ministry draws local students as well as those from rural Manitoba and other provinces and countries.

This past year, the Menno Office has had a core of about 25-30 students who come regularly and many more who come occasionally. There are over 200 on the Menno Office email list who want to stay informed with what is going on in the office.

Much of what takes place in the office is unstructured. Students meet twice weekly for “Menno Talk,” a more focused discussion time. This year the Wednesday gatherings have been devotional in focus providing a time of worship, singing, sharing, caring and prayer. The Thursday talks give

opportunity for faith-based discussions addressing everyday topics of interest and concern to the participants. Even during the unstructured times of the week, it’s not unusual for faith related conversation or singing (accompanied by any number of musical instruments) in the office to occur spontaneously.

There is a good relationship between the Menno Office and other ministries of the UofM Chaplains’ Association. Once a month students from the Menno Office join with students from the neighboring ministries to share a lunch that is provided by the Chaplains’ Association. Together with the other Christian ministries we held joint Advent worship service in December.

Through the activities and atmosphere in the Menno Office, IMCA continues to provide a welcoming setting for students to foster meaningful relationships with one another and with the Chaplain. As such, the students experience peer support as well as pastoral care and the opportunity for pastoral counseling, which is also available to faculty and staff.

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

Rev. Mark von Kampen Campus Chaplain University of Manitoba 102D University Centre 204-474-9691  
mvonkampen@gmail.com

# MENNONITE COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

For 130 years young people have had life-changing experiences at Mennonite Collegiate Institute. In this Christ-centred environment, students have received a quality education, formed lasting 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 the wider world.



Four years ago, MCI experienced a significant drop in enrolment. Numbers have been slow to recover. In these years the school has posted significant deficits. We cannot afford to do so again this year. Staff have accepted a 10% cut in salary for the current year. This sacrifice on their part demonstrates a deep commitment to Christian education at MCI.

This year's AGM (held Nov. 18) was a significant time of reflection and discernment. More than 120 people attended. This meeting affirmed MCI's existing Mission Statement and Four Core Values: Service Learning, Peace Building, Community & Belonging, Servant Leadership. Broad discussion generated many ideas to help the school address our current challenges.

We thank God for signs of hope as we face the future. As of Dec. 31, fundraising revenue was up \$130,000 (+60%) from the same period last year. Completing the year without a deficit remains a challenge but is within reach. Several new students are joining us for 2<sup>nd</sup> semester, bringing enrolment to a level that is higher than it has been since 2017. The number of dorm students is also increasing, requiring us to open a 4<sup>th</sup> 'mod' on the girl's side. New families are already applying for Sept. 2020.

Staff transitions are a regular part of school life. This past year saw a significant change in leadership. Bernie Loeppky completed his 2-year commitment and Gerald Barkman began as principal. Gerald joins MCI with broad experience in Christian education, having served schools across Canada and internationally.

**Please pray for MCI as we seek to continue our mission shaping young people for lives of service and leadership in God's Kingdom.** Visit [www.mciblues.net](http://www.mciblues.net) for more information about MCI. You can also follow us on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.



**Mennonite Collegiate Institute -- 466 Mary St. Gretna MB R0G 0V0 / 204-327-5891 / [mciblues.net](http://mciblues.net)**

# REPORT

For many Canadians today, the church is “unnoticed and unimportant.” That’s the view of Gabe and Rachel Warriner, co-pastors of River Valley Community Church in Grand Forks, B.C.

“The church is invisible,” says Gabe. “Nobody knows who we are as Christians. We’re irrelevant to people who drive past our buildings every day.”

But then a natural disaster comes along and—if Christians are paying attention to God’s leading—all that can change.

That’s what happened in Grand Forks following unprecedented flooding in spring 2018 that damaged over 400 homes in the community of 4,200 people. River Valley, a Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada congregation of about 100, responded by helping with sandbagging. But after the water receded, what could they do to help people rebuild their homes and lives?

Then Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) showed up. Working with the church and local officials, we brought in about 200 volunteers to rebuild and repair 15 homes.

The result was a new sense of appreciation for the church in the community, says Rachel.

“People were surprised when they saw the church was stepping up to help. It wasn’t what they expected. They didn’t think that’s what Christians did.” Adds Gabe: “There was a growing awareness of what the church is for. It’s a real plus for the Christian faith in Grand Forks for people to know what it means to be Christian.”

**Grand Forks is just one place in Canada where MDS sought to be the hands and feet of Jesus on your behalf in 2019.** Other places where we served included Ontario, where we helped people recover from flooding; Manitoba, where we built a house for a widow who lost

“

**People were surprised when they saw the church was stepping up to help ... They didn’t think that’s what Christians did.**

GABE WARRINER, CO-PASTOR,  
RIVER VALLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH, GRAND FORKS

her home in a fire; and also in Newfoundland, where we built a house for a family who lost their home in a fire. At the same time, volunteers served in locations in the U.S. in places like Texas, Florida, North and South Carolina, and California.

At the end of the project in Grand Forks, MDS project

co-director Peter Thiessen handed Gabe a “baton”—an old hammer used by volunteers. “We recognize we are only in a community for a season,” Peter said as he gave Gabe the hammer.

“It’s like a relay. We are glad to do what we can to help people rebuild their homes and restore their lives. But we can only take it so far before we leave. Then we hand off the baton to the local church to follow up with the people we served.”

For Gabe and Rachel, it was an important moment. “We’re not going anywhere,” he says. “We plan to stay

engaged with MDS’s clients and our community. We intend to let people know the church is always here, always ready to help them.”

**Your continued support for MDS, either as a volunteer or by donations, is greatly appreciated!** With your help we can continue to work with local churches to be a witness of God’s generous love for those who have been impacted by natural disasters, and to the communities where we serve.  
—Ross Penner, Director of Canadian Operations



Peter Thiessen of MDS passes the “baton” to River Valley Church pastor Gabe Warriner.



**Mennonite  
Disaster  
Service**

[mds.mennonite.net](http://mds.mennonite.net)

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# 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.

For this school year our staff and students are exploring our faith in a God who created the world to be good, and in Jesus who demonstrated how to live in this world with love. In a time of climate crisis and worries about our earth's future, we are spending this year practicing gratitude and wonder for the world, calling our community to new ways of living, repenting of the systems that destroy, and being part of a hopeful future for God's creation.

Our annual Spiritual Emphasis Week held October 7-10 developed the teaching "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds." Story chapels, small cross-grade group discussions and all school worship formed the week. Chapels included Terry Mierau whose family is sustained solely by what they grow on their southern Manitoba farm, Rachelle Friesen who is active in Christian Peacemaker Teams, and Kathy Giesbrecht who has formative relationships with folks living near our school.



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

## What is Westgate's enrollment this year?

This year we have 324 students. 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 are some big events that are going on this year?

We have a Senior High Music Tour leaving in a few months to the west coast where we will connect to the wider Mennonite Church at Emmanuel Mennonite, Abbotsford and Yarrow United Mennonite & Yarrow MB Church in Yarrow. In June we will also have a group of grade 12s travelling to the Middle East. They will hike the Jesus Trail, learn about the work off MCC as well as being hosted by families from the Mar Elias School in I'billin, Galilee.

## 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.



@westgatemennonite



@westgatewinnipeg

# 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)

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Dorothea Rempel Kampen – *Frohe Botschaft Producer*

## Camp Assiniboia

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Linda Dueck, *Guest Group Coordinator*

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Alfridie Braun, *Food Services Coordinator*

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Jake Fehr, *Maintenance*,

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Paul Dueck, *General Assistant*

## Camp Koinonia

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

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## Board of Directors

Gerald Gerbrandt, *Moderator*, Winnipeg

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Collen Edmunds, *East*

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James Friesen, *South*

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Richard Klassen, *Winnipeg*

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Kathleen Rempel Boschman, *Winnipeg*

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Evelyn Rempel Petkau, *South*

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Alex Tiessen (resigned April, 2019)

Katrina Woelk (resigned June, 2019)



# MCM Staff Photo Directory



Dorothy Fontaine  
*Director of Mission*



Elisabeth Franz-Warkentin  
*CwM Admin Assistant*



Kathy Giesbrecht  
*Assoc. Dir. of Leadership Ministries*



Janet Peters  
*CwM Assoc. Program Director*



Rick Neufeld  
*Dir. of Leadership Ministries*



Darryl Neustaedter Barg  
*Assoc. Dir. of Communications*



Dorothea Rempel Kampen  
*Frohe Botschaft Producer*



Ken Warkentin  
*Executive Director*



Stephanie Wenger  
*Administrative Assistant*

# MCM Staff Photo Directory cont.

## Camp Assiniboia



David Hogue  
*Camp Manager*



Alfridie Braun  
*Food Service Coordinator*



Linda Dueck  
*Guest Group Coordinator*  
(began September 2018)



Paul Dueck  
*General Assistant*



Jake Fehr  
*Maintenance*

# MCM Board Photo Directory



Colleen Edmunds



James Friesen



Gerald Gerbrandt



Isaac Hildebrand Schlegel



Richard Klassen



John Reimer



Kathleen Rempel Boschman



Evelyn Rempel Petkau

# Clusters of MCM 2019

## **Eastern**

Arnaud Mennonite Church  
Elim Mennonite Church  
Glenlea Mennonite Church  
Grace Mennonite Church, Steinbach  
Steinbach Mennonite Church  
Pinawa Christian Fellowship

## **West/North**

Crystal City Mennonite Church  
Grace Mennonite Church, Brandon  
Nordheim Mennonite Church  
Oak Lake Mennonite Church  
Trinity Mennonite Church  
Whitewater Mennonite Church  
Living Word Church  
Riverton Fellowship Circle

## **Winnipeg**

Bethel Mennonite Church  
Charleswood Mennonite Church  
Douglas Mennonite Church  
First Mennonite Church  
Fort Garry Mennonite Fellowship  
Home Street Mennonite Church  
Hope Mennonite Church  
Iglesia Jesus es el Camino  
Jubilee Mennonite Church  
North Kildonan Mennonite Church  
River East Mennonite Church  
Sargent Avenue Mennonite Church  
Springfield Heights Mennonite Church  
Sterling Mennonite Fellowship  
Vietnamese Mennonite Church  
Lao Mennonite Church (Related Congregation)

## **Southern**

Altona Mennonite Church  
Altona Bergthaler Mennonite Church  
Carman Mennonite Church  
Covenant Mennonite Church  
Emmanuel Mennonite Church  
Gretna Bergthaler Mennonite Church  
Lowe Farm Bergthaler Mennonite Church  
Morden Mennonite Church  
Pembina Mennonite Fellowship  
Seeds of Life Community Church  
Springstein Mennonite Church

## This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, leaving small margins at the top and bottom. There are no vertical margin lines, text, or other markings on the page.