

**2020 Report Book  
Volume 63**

**MCM Gathering 2021**

# **Mennonite Church Manitoba**

**March 6, 2021**

**Online via Zoom**

# Online via Zoom

2020/2021 will be remembered as the years where most meetings took place on Zoom (online web conferencing platform) due to the Covid-19 global pandemic.

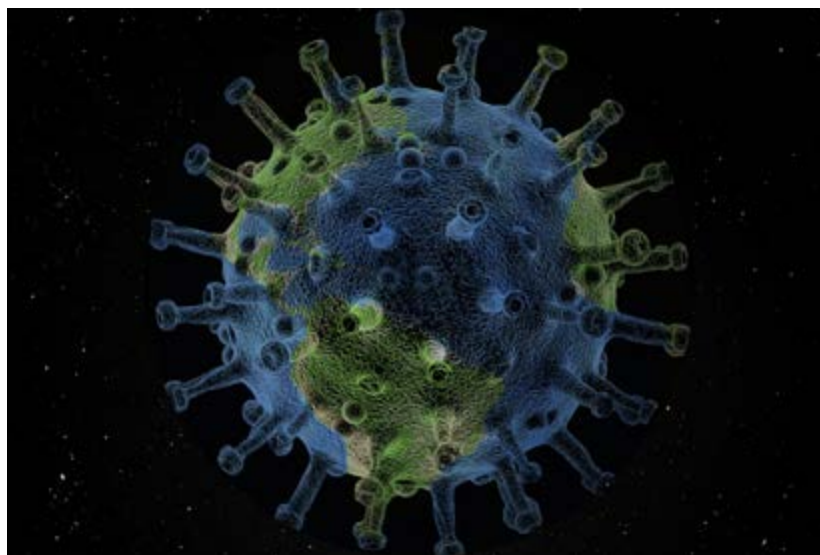
The 2020 Delegate Gathering was one of the last large gatherings many of us attended before the world went into lockdown.

With widespread vaccination on the horizon, we are hopeful that Gathering 2022 will be in person again and this space in the Report Book will be about the host congregation.

Gathering 2022 - March 4-5

# Map

Uniquely, anyone in the world could attend this year's Gathering in the same capacity as a Manitoban with adequate internet service. Again, we're reserving this spot in hope for the map to next year's location.



# Acronyms

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

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# 74th Annual Gathering Program

**Saturday, March 6, 2021**

- 8:50 a.m. Collage of Congregations
- 9:00 a.m. Welcome
- 9:05 a.m. Gathering in Worship (including installation of Executive Minister)
- 9:30 a.m. Agenda Review and Acceptance of Minutes of 73rd Annual Gathering
- 9:35 a.m. Report of 2020 Board Actions
- 9:40 a.m. Staff Reports and Congregational Stories
- 10:10 a.m. Questions from the Zoom Floor and Receiving Staff Reports
- 10:30 a.m. BREAK
- 10:45 a.m. Continuing in Worship
- 10:50 a.m. Mennonite Church Canada and Canadian Mennonite University
- 11:00 a.m. Affirming MCM Appointments
- 11:05 a.m. Reports on Finances 2020 and Budget 2021
- 11:15 a.m. Questions from the Zoom Floor and Receiving/Approving Financial Reports
- 11:40 a.m. Going Out in Worship (including Celebration of Church Life)

# Foreword

Welcome to the Mennonite Church Manitoba report book, looking back at 2020. This past year was a bigger year than any report book could possibly contain! Nevertheless, in this book you will find a representation of the work that our MCM staff, our MC Canada staff, and the staff of many related organizations provide for our constituency. Of course, this is not the only, or necessarily even most significant, work of MCM. The vast majority of MCM's work is done among us and through us as congregations seeking to follow Jesus within our communities on the path to greater justice, greater peace, greater joy—God's kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.

As you prepare for the 2021 Gathering being held via Zoom on the morning of March 6, 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 where we are now as MCM—"rooted in Christ"—in order to envision where we might be—"reaching out in love." We trust these reports will give us a common understanding of what God is already doing in our midst, what we are facing, and what opportunities lie before us. This report book is a collaborative effort of many people and we are grateful for the work which has gone into creating this book. Special thanks to Darryl Neustaedter Barg, our Communications Director, for producing this book along with our upcoming Zoom Gathering.

I look forward to sharing around our ministry together in March as the Gathered regional Body of Christ. To paraphrase the Apostle Paul in Colossians 2:5, though we will be absent in body, yet we will be together in spirit, and we will rejoice to see our morale and the firmness of our faith in Christ.



Michael Pahl  
Executive Director  
Mennonite Church Manitoba



Michael  
Pahl  
*Executive Minister*

# Vision and Mission

## VISION

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

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

## MISSION

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

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

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

# Values

## COMMUNITY

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

## LOVE, CARE AND NURTURE

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

## MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY

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

## DOCTRINE

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

## DISCERNMENT

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

## DISCIPLESHIP

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

## EVANGELISM

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

## SOCIAL CONCERN

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

## PEACE

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

## STEWARDSHIP

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

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

# From the Moderator

*As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. (Colossians 2:6-7)*

What a year 2020 has been! Little did we know as we walked out of the Altona Bergthaler Church following our 2020 Gathering on March 7 that within a week our world would be turned upside down. Nothing has been normal since then. In this context it is tempting to feel our foundations are shaking, that all certainty is lost. The words of Colossians 2 then call us back to our core reality: continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith. May Mennonite Church Manitoba be a body of congregations confident in its roots in Christ, living our lives in him.

## Mennonite Church Manitoba leadership

2020 was a year of transition for MCM, quite apart from the pandemic. For the first six months Ken Warkentin served as our Executive Minister. As was announced a year ago, he left this role in summer to take on pastoral leadership of Jubilee Mennonite Church. For the last half of the year Rick Neufeld, our Director of Leadership Ministries added to his responsibilities the role of Interim Executive Minister. Peter Rempel joined us for the last half of the year as MCM Administrator, providing invaluable support to Rick and staff. We owe the two of them a large debt of gratitude for leading us during these unusual months. Thank-you!

The great news on this front is that on January 1 we welcomed Michael Pahl into the role of Executive Minister. Having served as a pastor within MCM at Morden Mennonite for some 7 years, he knows MCM well. This has allowed him to hit the ground running full speed. In the month he has been on the job he has already displayed his leadership and vision for MCM. We are very much looking forward to working with him in the years to come. He will be formally installed into this role at the beginning of the 2021 Gathering.

## The Pandemic Impact and Response

As everywhere else, the pandemic had a huge impact on MCM, its congregations and programming. Congregations experienced it very directly as their in-person worship services were cancelled or restricted. It became clear that the Faith and Life choirs could not function during

these times. Staff presence at the office was significantly curtailed. But it was in the MCM Camps with Meaning programming that the impact was most severe—the traditional summer camping program as well as the much needed facility rentals were all cancelled (see the camps report for more details).

A positive reaction to this was new reality was the decision to produce worship resources for congregations as many moved to virtual worship. Sadly, however, the cancellation of programs, especially in Camps with Meaning, led to the difficult decision to place some staff on leave. Dorothy Fontaine is to be commended for how she worked with staff on this.

## MCM Facilities and Finances

Two developments require reporting under facilities. First, MCM is in the process of reviewing and renewing its lease agreement with MC Canada in the conference office building at 600 Shaftesbury Blvd. This was necessary due to the change in how the building was occupied as MCM had moved down from the 2nd floor to the 1st floor. This process is nearly complete.

Second, as the beneficial owner of the building, MC Canada initiated some long-needed capital repairs to the building as it replaced the heating and cooling systems, as well as redid the roof. MCM is paying for its portion of this renewal. It is anticipated that this coming summer the siding will be replaced. Within the MCM portion of the building we are in the process of removing mould that had formed in the ceiling of the studio. This then will also require the construction of a new ceiling in that space.

When the pandemic came there was much concern about what the financial implications would be for MCM. The financial statements give the details, but we are pleased that, despite some decreased giving from congregations, MCM was able to end the 2020 fiscal year in the black. This was due to a combination of government emergency support, a revised expectation in the amount of funds MCM passes on to MC Canada, and reduced expenses due to the pandemic, both in terms of lower program and travel costs and staff layoffs due to the pandemic.

## Reviewing MCM Structures and Committees

Already prior to the pandemic the MCM Board initiated a review of how we do our work. Ever since the current



MCM Governance model was developed, committees have played a relatively minor role. A Committee on Ministerial Leadership was formed early on, with Camp Committee created a few years ago. We decided to review the committee structure with view to increasing their place within MCM. Doing so would increase the human resources working in MCM as staff resources have gradually decreased over the years, and it would increase connections and relationships with congregations.

Thus far we have reviewed the terms of reference for the Committee on Ministerial Leadership and the Camp Committee. We have also developed terms of reference for a new MCM Finance Committee. Our intention is to also create a committee oriented toward encouraging and assisting congregations in mission, both local and in relationship to International Witness. This would fit our vision that the local congregation is the central locus of our witness and mission. In preparation for this the Board devoted a block of time at two of its meetings to interact with Jeanette Hanson of MC Canada International Witness and Dorothy Fontaine, MCM Director of Mission.

## Conclusion

When we gathered a year ago, we had no idea what was before us. Our meeting virtually this year was certainly not anticipated. Although there is some hope that the most significant impact of the pandemic may be behind us, we need to acknowledge that at this point we really don't know how we will come out of this experience, as a conference and as congregations. Our goal as Board and staff is to work together with congregations as we may need to discover new ways of being church in Manitoba, ways rooted in Christ, established in faith, and abounding in thanksgiving.

Gerald  
Gerbrandt  
*Moderator*



# MCM Interim Executive Director's Report

The theme for this 2021 MCM Gathering echoes in all kinds of ways. Looking back, the past year has seen its share of discouragement. There are certainly stories and situations of sorrow and painful heartache. However, there has been opportunity to deepen our relationship with God as well as a renewal in our connections with one another. *“Rooted In Christ: Reaching out in Love”* has certainly been the mantra by which we have chosen to live this past year. I have been thankful for the overwhelming ways that love and care have been given and received. This has been a cherished gift and a blessing.

My interim role began half way through the year (2020) following ten years of service by Ken Warkentin. On behalf of the MCM staff, I wish to express deepest appreciation for Ken's leadership over the past decade. Blessings as you continue to serve God in your role as congregational minister.

Several critical issues needed attention by the midpoint of the year.

- Most notably was determining the immediate future of camping ministry. Due to pandemic restrictions, Camps with Meaning programs were severely impacted. Overnight camping programs eventually cancelled. Encouraging throughout, came the creative idea of hosting day camp activities at numerous locations. Thank you to the camps leadership staff who gave of themselves in such generous ways.
- Camp Assiniboia rental facilities was suspended. Essentially, all rental groups for the fall season were cancelled as well as group rental possibilities for the beginning of 2021.
- Camp staff layoffs began on September 1. The reality of this pandemic as well as the decreased rental revenue resulted in seven (7) camp staff layoffs indefinitely.
- A Shared Space agreement at 600 Shaftesbury Blvd. between MCM and MC Canada was necessary in moving forward.
- An agreement with tenant (Paintbox) for the use of the MCM Studio (2<sup>nd</sup> floor) was developed.
- A formalized payment agreement with MC Canada was agreed upon.
- A comprehensive review of MCM staffing model for the future was undertaken and completed.

Special thanks to Peter Rempel who Peter served as Interim Administrative Assistant from June to December.

The year **2020** was a season to offer thanks and enjoy the blessings of multiple ministries:

- We celebrated the ministry of the German-speaking Radio program *Frohe Botschaft* and gave thanks for the long-serving significant ministry that it has provided to a far-reaching audience. We offer our deepest gratitude to Dorothea Kampen and the many others who have offered their gifts and contributions over the years.
- We rejoiced in the coming together of two MCM congregations to form one new congregation. Following a process of prayerful discernment, the Trinity Mennonite Fellowship (Mather) and Crystal City Mennonite Church closed their doors to form *Prairie Mennonite Fellowship*. Thanks be to God for this new beginning!
- The pandemic has forced the Faith & Life Women's Chorus and Male Choir to refrain from in person gatherings for practice and performance. We are encouraged by the continued commitment of the members to renew their relationship through the gift of song in the near future. We know that our constituents are waiting too!
- The *Riverton Fellowship Circle* made the decision to end their ministry as a congregation. Although we mourn the loss of this significant gathering of friends, we do acknowledge that their history of partnerships within the community and beyond have brought joy and blessing for many people along the way.
- The announcement of Michael Pahl as Executive Minister for MCM brought hope in the face of significant loss. We welcome Michael to the MCM staff team!

I want to offer thanks to the MCM Board members. Your love for the church and dedication to the work of MCM's mission is deeply valued! I have enjoyed the opportunity to work closely together with you as a representative of the MCM staff.

Finally, I wish to say thank you to the staff of MCM – both office staff and camp personnel across our region. With the many strains and stresses that have been before us, I am encouraged by the perseverance and resiliency that each of you have demonstrated in these difficult times. May the flame of God's light burst forth and shine brightly within you!

Rick Neufeld  
*Dir. of Leadership  
Ministries*



# Faith and Life Choirs



Faith and Life Women's Chorus - Christmas 2018

Conductor: Janet Brenneman Pianist: Erin Dyck

Greetings from the Faith and Life Women's Chorus! Currently in our 25th year, the FLWC (like all other choral communities around the globe) is exploring what it means to sing and be together even when we are apart. Our plans for the 2020-21 season dramatically changed last spring and we are missing the opportunities we would have had this year to connect with our church families throughout Mennonite Church Manitoba. However, we have managed to stay connected with each other and are adapting to our regularly scheduled Zoom rehearsals.

Approximately every 3 weeks, we meet for two hours via Zoom for a chance to see one other and exercise our voices a bit. In December, we had the wonderful opportunity to sing some of the Advent songs from the new hymnal, *Voices Together*, and were led by our Assistant Conductor, Madeleine Friesen. What a joy to discover some new treasures that we hope to share with each other in person again soon! Our focus for our online rehearsals is threefold: 1) to work on our individual vocal technique by strengthening and maintain healthy singing voices; 2) to nurture our faith and artistry through song; 3) to continue to build and strengthen our community of women singing together. We do all the above through vocal exercises, repertoire, and spending intentional time together and in smaller breakout groups to share with one another our individual joys and concerns.

Our goal is to keep connected in preparation for our return to in person singing when that time comes. We ask for your continued support in prayer as we look forward to the day when we connect with our churches once again.

*Janet Brenneman*



Faith and Life Male Choir - Christmas 2018

Conductor: Ben Pauls Pianist: Loren Hiebert

The Faith and Life Male Choir has enjoyed a long relationship with Mennonite Church Manitoba and the ministry of worshipping with many congregations over the years, presenting a variety of concerts, singing at fundraisers, and other events as called upon. This past year has been a difficult one coping with the restrictions that the Coronavirus has presented. In spite of a well planned for Winter and Spring season, all in-person rehearsals and concerts had to be cancelled. We tried to adapt to online rehearsals, but, in spite of what technology allow us to do, the experience falls far short of an singing together. It has made us so aware of the gift of choral singing.

In the Fall of 2020 we embarked on a virtual recording project, preparing and recording a song for the Advent season. After many frustrations - technological, singing alone, and others - the result quite surpassed all expectations. Let it be known though that we have so longed to be able to see each other and sing together again. We look forward to being able to sing for and connect with our audiences and congregations again. *Ben Pauls*

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

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

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

# Mission Ministry

Those who engage in mission & outreach, often note (sometimes with surprise) that their experiences are as much a blessing to them as to those they serve. Perhaps this is because our endeavors to “root ourselves in Christ” compel us to seek & know him more fully – and what better place to find Jesus than in the world that he so loves? When we stand in the presence of Christ and experience the sheer magnitude of his love and all that it contains: healing, grace, mercy, forgiveness, redemption to name a few, we grow & transform. Seeking Christ and engaging with him in the world, roots us more firmly in him.

There are many diverse ways that we, as congregations, reach out to the communities around us: from food banks & resource centres, to children’s programs & support programs for the elderly. While I have no doubt that our efforts are a blessing to those we serve, I also wonder how it helps us in our journey? What have we experienced? How has it changed us? Has it brought us closer to each other and God?

In working through these experiences and sharing them with others, we help each other “seek” and build each other up in Christ. The theme of MCM’s 2021 AGM, Rooted in Christ, Reaching Out in Love, is based on Colossians 2:1-7, which assures us that thanksgiving abounds when we receive Christ and live our lives in him. Let’s continue to seek him and share of his living presence in our lives, in the life of the church, and in the neighbourhoods & communities around us.

## Partnership Circles

### Riverton Fellowship Circle

We give thanks for Riverton Fellowship Circle (RFC) and all of its member throughout the years, who have blessed MCM and the community of Riverton through their ministry. In June of 2020, RFC decided to close its doors. While it once enjoyed fellowship of 40-50 people, its membership declined in more recent years as people moved away or passed on.

RFC began meeting in the basement of the Riverton and District Friendship Centre (RDFC) in 1985. In the summer 1997, they began construction on their own building. RFC officially joined MCM in 2006. Over the years, strong friendships and bonds were formed through a Partnership Circle ministry that included, RFC, Bethel,

Douglas, Home Street and Sargent Mennonite Church.

RFC was also a vital part of the Riverton community and over the years forged strong ties with the Friendship Centre. Upon closing, RFC’s building was gifted to the Centre so that the community would continue to enjoy its programs.

A closing service and celebration will take place at a later date when the restrictions around gatherings are lifted.

### Holding each other in thought & prayer

The pandemic prevented most Partnership Circle gatherings & events from occurring in 2020, but it didn’t stop people in our ministry circles from exchanging prayers and well-wishes as demonstrated in [this video exchange between the community of Cross Lake and Sterling Mennonite Church](#).

Until the time, as mayor Bob Smith from Cross Lake says, that we can gather again for “a big celebration”, let’s continue to encourage each other and keep each other in prayer.

## Camping Ministry

### Summer Camp

The pandemic restrictions that were imposed on Manitoba camps in 2020, required us to change our summer program significantly. The guidelines, which enabled us to run camp safely, touched on every aspect of the summer from transportation to food, to activities and programs.

We owe a world of thanks to the members of our Camp Committee, Pandemic Response Committee, to the Summer Leadership Team & summer staff, volunteers and year-round staff who helped us put together a meaningful, safe and fun program for all. We look forward to another great summer in 2021, in whatever form it takes.

### Development Plans

The capital campaign and development plans for Camp Assiniboia are currently on hold due to the pandemic. We have yet to determine when the campaign will resume, and if we will pursue the plan in its entirety or in phases. In order to meet our financial goals for the campaign, we will

need support from the business community. Unfortunately, many were impacted by the pandemic; how this will affect our plans is still uncertain.

In the meantime, we were thrilled to offer kayaking activities on the new lake at Camp Assiniboia. This coming year, we plan to have an aeration system installed so that campers can swim as well.

## **Finances and Staffing**

The financial impact of the pandemic resulted in a deficit of approximately \$38,000 in 2020 (after the \$125,000 grant from MCM is applied). While this figure is significant, it could have been higher. A number of factors helped keep the deficit down including financial assistance through Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy program, personal and church donations, and grants from organizations like the Winnipeg Foundation.

Even with this support, we had to issue temporary lay-off notices to most of our year-round staff in September. Please keep them in your prayers throughout this difficult time. The pandemic restrictions continue to limit the number of guests and rental groups that we can have on-site, and while we hope that our rental season will return to “near normal” by the fall, it is uncertain at this time.

Dorothy Fontaine  
*Director of Mission*



## Camp Assiniboia

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2020 started off busier than 2019, but by the second week of March, school groups and other rental groups were canceling due to COVID-19. Camp Assiniboia remained closed to rental groups throughout the spring, however we were able to open from June-September to run a summer day camp program.

In the fall, new restrictions were imposed due an increase in positive COVID-19 cases. This severely limited the number of rental groups that we could have. As a result, most Camp Assiniboia and Camps with Meaning staff received temporary lay-off notices. While Camps with Meaning staff will return to work in the winter of 2021 in order to prepare for the summer camp, a number of the site staff at Camp Assiniboia remain laid off.

In spite of the many challenges we have faced, our staff and volunteers completed a number of projects in 2020 including a renovation to the Mini Conference Centre and the installation of water, hydro and communications lines to the garden, and lake area of camp. In spring of 2021, we will

install an aeration system for the new lake in order to keep the water clean for swimming and other water activities.

Like all of us, looking back on the past year fills me with a sense of sadness, for lives lost, isolation endured, opportunities missed, and the sense that it is hard to remember what life was like before COVID-19. Looking ahead, I focus on the idea that even if we cannot completely eradicate this virus, we are on a path to managing it well enough to get our lives back to near normal. Like a camel looking into the eye a needle we all can recall the words of Jesus found in Mathew 19:26

Jesus kijikt an aun en saed: "*Bie Mensche es daut om-maeajlich, oba bie Gott es aules maeajlich.*"

Jesus looked at them and said, "*With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.*"

David Hogue, Site Manager, Camp Assiniboia.

## Camp Koinonia

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Camp Koinonia started 2020 very optimistic with how the year was shaping up with guest groups, summer camp and a basement renovation project. Unfortunately, like most organizations, the year has not gone as planned.

One of the highlights of 2020 for Camp Koinonia board was, just prior to the pandemic, Camp Koinonia hired Evan Laramée and Meara Sparling as Onsite Managers. Evan & Meara did come to camp in late April and were officially hired in June. Evan continues to work full time.

Camp Koinonia was able to have some guest groups throughout the summer and fall, a Camps with Meaning Day Camp day, fortunately the mini lodge has been

quite busy. But for the most part Camp Koinonia has been closed.

With the camp being closed we were able to do the basement renovation that has been badly needed for the last number of years, thanks to the financial commitment from MCM, we have basically completed this project.

The Camp Koinonia board looks to the New Year with optimism and hope.

Camp Koinonia Inc. Board

# Summer Program Report

## Bible Curriculum and Theme Song

Our Bible curriculum for summer 2020 was titled “Growing in God’s Love.” Written by Sandy Plett, based in large part on Maria Dueck’s 2015 curriculum, the focus Scripture text came from Jeremiah 17:7-8: “Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.” The daily lessons moved through the parts of the tree as metaphors for our own growth in life and faith. Our Pop-up Camps incorporated 2 lessons during the day, and Bible Instructors collaborated with Nature Instructors to talk about roots and branching out.

There were no new songs written for this year, since we were unable to meet in a productive way, and we were so uncertain about the way camp would be able to run. With less singing able to happen this summer, our Bible Instructors created body prayers and responsive prayers to create a sense of worship and community. These were beautiful and meaningful additions to our worship times.

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

shape to the curriculum.

## Summer Program

This summer looked a lot different than other summers. We were unable to run our spring ADV weeks, again due to the pandemic and its accompanying restrictions. However, we were able to run day camp programs with limited numbers. Knowing that many of our campers would be unable to drive to camp for a day camp program, we decided to run a number of Pop-up Camps as well as 2 week-long day camps. We also had a small event in Morden and Winkler for local ADV campers which was appreciated by all.

Our Pop-up camps ran for one day in locations around the province, including in Winnipeg, Morden and Steinbach, and at Camp Koinonia. The day included 2 Bible/Nature lessons, crafts and games. We are very grateful to the churches who hosted us, and we found these days to be a valuable and meaningful way to connect with our supporting churches. We had a lovely mix of 78 new and returning campers at our 5 Pop-ups, with many first-timers excited about the prospect of returning for overnight camps in the future.

We also hosted 81 campers at 2 weeks of day camp at Camp Assiniboia. We used the large site to our advantage,



The Beach at Camp Assiniboia "Lake"

spreading everyone out and adjusting activities as needed to maintain distancing protocols. The lake was ready for use, and kayaking was one highlight of our Assiniboia summer, along with science activities, nature, archery, farm, obstacle courses, and mini-golf. We had our daily Bible lessons, and even created a fireside experience once a week with sharing and worship around a fire in the afternoon. We were so thankful to be able to connect with as many campers as we did, although we sorely missed connecting with our adult campers and spending more time at Koinonia. Should this summer pan out in a similar fashion, plans are to provide more ADV Pop-up events and to run more days at Koinonia for campers.

Our two camps continue to work toward the future. Koinonia has hired On-site Caretakers, Meara Sparling and Evan Laramee, and was able to renovate the basement of the lodge, a large and much-needed undertaking. Assiniboia has begun renovations to the Mini-Conference centre and now has a 3.5-acre lake and kayaks to add to our summer and off-season activities.

We are still uncertain about what summer 2021 will look like, but we have plans for a full summer as well as options for day camps ready to go.

## Retreats

Retreats were also more difficult to run during this past year, but we were able to run our annual ADV Winter Retreat in February at Camp Assiniboia. Natasha Neustaedter Barg and Claudia Dueck provided leadership and many of our senior summer staff volunteered to make this a meaningful time for the 16 participants.



Learning to paddle at Camp Koinonia

By May, the restrictions in place forced us to cancel our Birding Retreat, and our fall staff retreat was also not able to run.

At this point we foresee not being able to run the ADV retreat this February, but are hopeful that other retreats

The following is the 2020 **Leadership Staff**:

**Summer Program Directors:** Claudia Dueck, Nic Harder, Sol Schlegel, Bri Hildebrand (left mid-summer)

**Bible Instructors:** Isaac Schlegel & Johanna Klassen

**Nature Instructor:** Taysa Dueck

**Farm Coordinator:** Dylan Peters

**Integration Coordinators:** Mackenzie Nicolle & Carrie Schulz

**SLT Directors:** Natasha Neustaedter Barg & Griffin Kehler

**TV Director:** Mackenzie Hildebrand



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might be possible in May and in the fall.

## Staff and Volunteers

This past summer we had a total of 61 staff and volunteers working with us to make this adjusted summer camp program possible. The 16 volunteers were mostly Health Officers and Camp Pastors, with minimal kitchen staff needed. We are especially grateful for the Health Officers who made all of our programs possible, but also very appreciative of the support of our camp pastors.

Our staff of 47 young people were as amazing and creative and faithful as ever. We had a lovely group of 7 Teen Volunteers who helped out in all sorts of roles and got their feet wet as staff for the first time. Our SLT group was made up of 17 great young staff, many of whom had been part of our large TV group in 2019. We were so thankful to be able to run training weeks and our out-trip program, although modified, for our SLTs this year. While our returning staff were a small bunch this summer, mostly due to the uncertainties around the summer possibilities, they were a solid and creative group who stepped up into all sorts of new things with energy and joy.

The program had 13 strong leaders once again this summer. We had a mix of returning and new leadership staff, but with the changes to the program we all felt new much of the time! Their patience and creativity and passion for the camping ministry were inspirational.



Janet Peters  
*Assoc. Summer Program  
Director*

# Leadership Ministries

*“Keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock, of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God...” (Acts 20:28)*

The following section of my report outlines the highlights of the year on a monthly basis. Given that many programs and gatherings were placed on “pause,” there is much that has taken place.

## Regular Monthly:

- Pastor Cluster Groups: Winnipeg, Southern, Western, Eastern
- Church Leadership Ministers of MC Canada
- Palestine-Israel Manitoba Working Grp.
- MCM Staff meetings
- Inter-Mennonite Denominational Leaders Accountability Group

## 2020 Happenings:

### January

- Covenanting services for Pastors Kevin Drudge (Covenant) & Karen Schellenberg (Charleswood)

### February

- “ReNew” @ CMU - Guest Presenter Andy Root  
Co-sponsored with MC Canada Prairie Regional Churches, MB Mennonite Brethern Church & CMU
- One day orientation session for new MCM Pastors @ MCM

### March

- MCM Annual Gathering @ Altona Bergthaler Mennonite Church
- COVID – 19 Shut down

### April

- Pastor Cluster Gatherings via ZOOM

### May

- Pastor Cluster virtual Gatherings (2x/month)
- Pentecost Worship/sermon with Nordheim Mennonite Church, Winnipegosis

### June

- Recognition of the Licensing toward Ordination for Judith Friesen-Epp @ Home Street Mennonite Church
- MCM Staff Farewell for Ken Warkentin (MCM

Executive Minister)

- Peter Rempel began as Interim Administrative Assistant
- Frohe Botschaft conclusion of radio broadcasts

### July

- Began role as Interim Executive Minister for MCM (6 mths)

### August

- MCM Director’s meetings
- MCM Staff Meetings
- Camp personnel interviews
- Installation service for Hoa Van Chau @ Vietnamese Mennonite Church (Wpg)

### September

- Pastoral Cluster gatherings (virtual and in person)
- MC Canada Executive Staff Group monthly meetings
- Joint Council (MC Canada) meeting
- 1 week holiday to help with moving of family members
- MCM Staff Retreat /Farewell for Ken Warkentin & Dorothea Kampen @ Camp Assiniboia
- ReNew “Preaching” series (monthly sessions)
- MCM Nominations Committee

### October

- Pastoral Cluster Gatherings (2x/mth)
- Virtual gathering of Southern & Winnipeg pastoral cluster
- Commissioning of lay ministers @ Fort Garry Mennonite Fellowship
- MCM Ministerial Leadership Committee
- MC Canada Study Conference
- Camps with Meaning virtual fundraiser (“Break the Bank-uet”)
- Preliminary conversation with Michael Pahl (EM) re: transition in January
- Congregational Search Committee conversations (2 congregations)
- MC Canada Joint Council Meeting

### November

- Preach at Whitewater Mennonite Church (virtual)
- Harassment Policy document writing group
- MCM Nominations Committee working committee
- Pastoral Cluster Gatherings (monthly)
- Virtual cluster gathering of Eastern & Western Pastoral Clusters

- MCM Board meeting (Global Mission with Jeanette Hanson MC Canada)

we long for connection — connection to other humans,

December

- Pastoral Cluster gatherings
- Ministerial Leadership Committee (credentialing schedule for new year)
- Editorial Meeting for “VISION” journal
- Congregational Search Committees (2 congregations)
- Leadership Transition meeting with Michael Pahl
- MCM Board Meeting (Local Mission focus with Dorothy Fontaine)
- MCM Christmas Staff virtual Gathering



connection to place, connection to important rituals, connection to our inner being (which may be the most difficult connection for some of us).

As regional minister serving MCM, I get a front row seat to both the long-ing and the connecting. I have certainly been impressed with the adaptability of folks and the willingness (on the whole) of people to learn new ways of connecting - connecting to common practices — and creating new ones at the same time. Back in March and April, I and others spent countless hours coaching people through getting connected on (video chat software) Zoom — landline telephone in one hand, computer, tablet or cellphone in the other — as we worked our way through it to that moment of "YES! I can see and hear you! Can you see and hear me?" How many people surpassed their own and others' expectations in shows of perseverance and have been delightedly reaping the benefits ever since? People long to be connected!



Congregations prepared devotions and worship resources for people to connect at home. During the Advent season, candles and booklets were delivered to people's homes, so they could light the candles of Advent — the candles of hope, peace, joy and love as we progressed through the weeks leading up to Christmas. I heard from people of all

**Reflections Of Past Year:**

THANK YOU! These two words express my sentiments as I reflect back on the year. I think of our Pastors, lay leaders, church technicians (often the same people), who have spent countless hours in preparing and developing ways of connecting with congregational members. I wish to offer a huge debt of gratitude for the ways that you have contributed during this pandemic year. Thank you for the beautiful and creative ways that you have provided care for the Beloved Mennonite Church.

It seems that if there is something I'm learning during this pandemic, it's that



Credentialed Pastors of MCM (including Retired Pastors) – 175  
 Credentialed Pastors in Active Congregational Ministry - 60  
 New Pastors to MCM (including interim & commissioned) - 10  
 Concluding Pastoral assignments (including interim) – 6  
 Interim Pastors - 2  
 Credentials Granted – 1  
 Credentials Transferred IN – 0  
 Credentials Transferred OUT – 0

ages telling me how meaningful it has been — especially for those alone in their home — to light a candle and use the same words that others use in their homes. Connecting to ritual — and creating new ones at the same time.

People who are not able to be part of our worshipping community in "normal times" — because of distance, mobility, work schedules, family responsibilities or other reasons — are incredibly grateful to connect through online worship. They watch in the middle of the night or while preparing lunch or whatever works for them! So, as chaotic as it can be, we now have many gatherings on Zoom — just to see other faces and squirmy bodies and to commiserate about the confines of a pandemic with the little people in our households. I think of the senior in his 90s who connects regularly by phone with a whole host of others, especially when he wants to alert them to a television special he thinks they would enjoy! I think of the young family asking if we could connect them with people in the neighbourhood - those who are living alone and could maybe use a bit of joyful cheer. There have been stories of offering to set up a suitable time to drop by with youth or young children, dropping off a handmade card, chocolates and a message of hope and love chalked on the sidewalk in the front yard.

## Joy and appreciation

Even in sorrow, grief, loneliness, anxiety or fear, the need to connect remains. At times of death, congregations have found ways to offer care and love to a grieving family. These connections, although severely restricted have given proof to the resiliency and perseverance that has formed deep within us and continues to shape who we are becoming.

Yes, if there is something that I am learning during this pandemic, it is that we long for connection.

## Looking Ahead:

So what is the Church becoming? What have we learned about ourselves? How will our faith continue to grow? There is no doubt that 2021 will bring new opportunities for the Church and for MCM congregations. I trust that our connectedness to God and to one another will shape who we are becoming. I offer a few thoughts for this year:

- MCM has benefited from gifted leaders who have served the church with long-standing commitment. As we look ahead, the emphasis on leadership development for the future continues to be a strong

priority. How can MCM help congregations in the responsibility of calling out leaders for the church and world?

- The role of pastoral ministry is changing. We must continue to equip pastors for the challenges of a new era. What specific needs can congregations identify in these changing times? Can MCM be a conduit for assisting congregations in providing financial resources for pastors to do online study while remaining at home? How do smaller congregations benefit from financial assistance programs that make study for lay ministers more affordable and less daunting?
- MCM places a high degree of importance on Pastor to Pastor relations for the purpose of professional growth and accountability. Cluster groups remain a strong component of connectedness. We have explored some new opportunities of expanding our cluster conversations by connecting with other cluster groups. I wonder if we can think about expanding those connections to include other pastoral groups across our nation-wide church! Perhaps even globally!
- MCM together with our regional partners of MC Canada are implementing a new forum of spiritual discernment. Communities of Spiritual Leadership will give opportunity for regional leadership to gather for discussion and theological discernment around common issues and spiritual matters. MCM is currently in the process of bringing together individuals who can help shape and coordinate this important task.

May we together, continue to be encouraged by God's abiding presence and peace!



Rick Neufeld  
*Dir. of Leadership  
Ministries*

# Pastor - Congregation Linkages

## MCM PASTORAL PLACEMENTS:

(Congregation)	(Name)	(Position)	(Start Date)
Covenant Mennonite	Kevin Drudge	Pastor	January 1
Charleswood Mennonite	Karen Schellenberg	Intentional Interim (1 yr.)	January 12
Altona Bergthaler	Josh Janzen	Pastor for Youth	February 1
Jubilee Mennonite	Ken Warkentin	Intentional Interim	August 15
Vietnamese Mennonite	Hoa Van Chau	Pastor	August 30
Bethel Mennonite	Valeriia Alipova	Pastor	September 1
Bethel Mennonite	Madelyn Friesen	Pastor for Arts/Music	September 1
Sterling Mennonite	Kennedy Froese	Interim Pastor	September 15

## CONCLUDING ASSIGNMENTS:

(Congregation)	(Name)	(Position)	(End Date)
Gretna Bergthaler	Terrell & Janna Wiebe	Pastors	July 31
Bethel Mennonite	John Braun	Interim Pastor – Seniors	September 30
Morden Mennonite	Michael Pahl	Lead Pastor	December 31
Charleswood Mennonite	Karen Schellenberg	Intentional Interim	December 31
Springfield Hts. Mennonite	Jack Dyck	Associate Pastor	December 31

## CREDENTIALING ACTIVITY:

(Congregation)	(Name)	(Credential)	(Service Date)
Home Street Mennonite	Judith Friesen-Epp	License toward Ordination	June 14
Fort Garry Mennonite	Mary Anne Loewen	Commissioned for Lay ministry	October 6
Fellowship	Conrad Barber-Dueck	Commissioned for Lay ministry	October 6

## 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 2021, will be considered.

Neither the Abram G. Neufeld nor Jake and Dorothy Pauls Fund had applicants in 2020.

## 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 2021, please contact MCM Leadership Ministries to receive guidelines and an application form.

Applications received by June 1, 2021 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 2020, there were no applications received.

If you would like to apply for a Johann Funk loan in 2021, please contact Leadership Ministries.

Applications received by June 1, 2021, will be considered.

If you would like to apply for the **Abram G. Neufeld Bursary**, **Jake and Dorothy Pauls Pastoral Leadership Training Fund**, **Johann Funk Memorial Fund** in 2021, please contact MCM Leadership Ministries to receive guidelines and an application form.

Donations are welcome.

# Associate Director of Leadership Ministries

At the core of our ministries is our commitment to the Body of Christ. Together, we give time, energy and resources to young leaders and those who lead the young. Over the years, we have developed a wide variety of ways that we invest in pastors and congregations, particularly those ministers/ministries that engage our children/youth/young adults and those who care for them.

## In 2020 we were committed to providing:

- Winter Youth Retreats (Jan/Feb)
- Annual Youth Peace Witness Gathering: On the Eve (Nov)
- Resource Days for YMF\* Pastors (Jan/April/Sept)
- Mentors for new Pastors
- Pastoral Care for YMF Pastors
- Online gatherings for spiritual care and ministry consultation.
- Accompaniment for people seeking vocational discernment

(\*YMF- Youth Ministers Fellowship)

## In 2020 we were committed to partnering with:

- MennoMedia. Contributing to Leader Magazine.
- Menno Office at U of M.
- CMU Renew Conference



On the Eve - Annual Youth Peace Witness

## Woven (formerly Mennonite Women Manitoba)

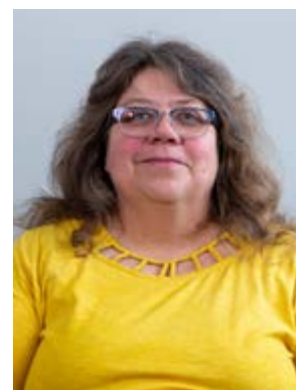
### In 2021 we are committed to working at:

- Sending a group of young adults to the Mennonite World Conference 2022. Project Coordinator: Andrea De Avila.
- Participating in the Leadership Team for 2022 National Youth Gathering and Young Leader Experience in Alberta. (Jeff Friesen, Kathy Giesbrecht)
- Supporting Children's Ministries, in particular the Awesome KidMin Conference. (March 2021)
- Providing the Writing Team for Advent-Epiphany Worship Resources in Leader Magazine. (Coordinator: Elsie Rempel. Team: Paul Dueck, Kathy Giesbrecht, Michael Pahl, Emily Rempel, Karen Schellenberg and Marika Veith)

As I like to say, there is never a dull day in the life of the Church! This year was certainly no exception. I have been moved by the commitment of pastors and congregations to find new and adapted ways to live faithfully together. To attend to the needs of their children,

their youth and their young adults (and their parents!) has been a labor of love. I am so proud of the pastors/leaders I work alongside of; they have given their all to the people in their care.

An honor to serve together, *Kathyg*



Grateful to God for our life together,  
Kathy Giesbrecht  
Assoc. Dir. of  
Leadership Ministries

# Palestine-Israel Working Group

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

During the year the group grew to include 13 active participants committed to advocacy. Its work included the following:

- Intentional follow-up to 18 speaking engagements in 10 MCM churches that began in 2019 but was interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic. This work included the creation of a Facebook page – MC Manitoba Friends of Palestine--where we post information, calls to prayer, and events (mainly webinars) related to Palestine and Israel.
- MCM’s website included working group updates and announcements at
- <https://mennochurch.mb.ca/get-involved/Israel-Palestine>
- The group arranged to have MCM host their small, self-generated sundry fund related to publicity and events through a formal signed MOU.
- In July, MCM and MCMPIWG signed on to a Memo of Understanding between Mennonite Church Canada and Bethlehem Bible College formalizing a partnership for mutual mission. The agreement, facilitated through the national network (MC Canada PIN), built upon past connections of MC Canada members, including a number within the MCMPIWG.
- The group helped promote a webinar facilitated by MC Canada Palestine-Israel Network and MC Canada executive staff on Dec. 15, introducing participants to the leaders and the work of Bethlehem Bible College; over 70 people participated from across MC Canada.
- The group began its monthly “Write-a-Letter-Wednesday”, in the spring. This initiative encourages constituency and others to write letters urging provincial and federal government leaders to take action to ensure compliance with International Law and Human Rights Law in regard to Palestine and Israel. Some of the topics included: home demolition in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, Palestinian children’s

rights; Canada and Israel’s Free Trade Agreement, which includes the importing of settlement goods; and Israel’s ongoing settlement expansion. Letter writing happens together on-line the last Weds of every month from 7:30 – 8:10 pm. Everyone is welcome! (For more information, check the MC Canada PIN monthly newsletter).

- The working group continues to collaborate with a number of advocacy groups through on-line meetings, promotion of webinars, and joint meetings with Manitoba MPs. These groups include Independent Jewish Voices, United Network for a Just Peace in Palestine and Israel (United Church), Mennonite Central Committee ( and its A Cry for Home initiative), Canadian Friends of Sabeel, local Palestinian associations and others devoted to justice and peace in the Middle East.

In the spirit of Mennonite Church Canada’s Resolution on Palestine and Israel, we continue the work of listening and learning, educating and advocating for just peace. Palestinian Christians urge us as brothers and sisters to speak truth to power, with humility but also with boldness in the fervent hope that Israel’s 53 year military occupation will end, and everyone living in the land called Palestine and Israel will experience a true and lasting peace.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chair of MCMPIWG  
Joanna Hiebert Bergen  
[mcmfriendsofpalestine@gmail.com](mailto:mcmfriendsofpalestine@gmail.com)



# Mennonite Women Manitoba Working Group / WOVEN

This year began with our Mennonite Women Mb Working Group happily settling under a more officially recognized relationship with Mennonite Church Manitoba as a “related organization.” Spring retreat plans at Charleswood Mennonite Church were underway. It was to provide a brave, safe space for women to women to worship, think and talk about mental health. Terry Warburton, counsellor with Eden Mental health services, had consented to be our resource person. Then COVID 19 derailed it.

It derailed life even more severely for Pamela Obonde, a Kenyan Mennonite leader in Women’s Ministries currently studying as a graduate student at CMU. Since our group is a descendant of Mennonite Women’s Organizations that support women in mission Pamela approached us with her dilemma. We responded by providing Pamela and her son with summer housing and a bursary, something we had the resources to do since we had inherited money from Mennonite Women Canada. As she faced the difficulty of mourning her father’s death from a distance in fall, we found other ways of reaching out and supporting her family, the most recent being the gift of a quilt in his memory. Contact with Pamela has become a positive cross-cultural Mennonite connection for our group.

This opportunity for ministry, which we feel God laid in our laps, led us to establish a bursary to support primarily International Anabaptist Women with significant individual need who are studying at CMU in a program that will equip them to be more effective leaders upon return to their country of origin. These women will receive support for programs offered through Canadian Mennonite University (CMU). The bursary is primarily for a Graduate Program that will meet the students’ objective for further leadership training. The objective of this bursary is to empower women and show solidarity and support for them. An additional benefit will be to establish relationships and networks with these women and their home contexts.

On September 26, on what could have been a retreat day for Manitoba Mennonite Women at Camp Assiniboia, had the infection numbers maintained their summer lows, our working group met at Camp to worship and brainstorm.

We looked at issues facing Manitoba women today, meditated on Psalm 139, took silent and solitary forest walks, and considered spaces and events we could use to address these issues together with other Mennonite Women. It was a fruitful day. Plans emerging from this day include:

- Recruiting new members, especially from rural Manitoba. This year two women moved on from our group, Janet Peters and Cheryl Thiessen, both from Winnipeg. We thank them for fine service and will miss them. Our current membership consists of Bethany (Epp) Bunko from Winkler, now living in Winnipeg, Kathy Giesbrecht, Winnipeg, Larissa Pahl from Morden but planning to move to Winnipeg, Elsie Rempel, Winnipeg. In December, Tina Fehr Kehler from Winkler and Heather Hildebrand from Crystal City decided to join us, for which we are very glad. At the time of writing, we are still seeking a member from Eastman.
- Connecting with Mennonite women through an online book club to help us stay in touch and discuss women’s issues, hosted by Bethany Bunko in February-March of 2021.
- Improve our Communication by promoting our Facebook Page as a virtual meeting/information space for women and developing our Email Network, comprised of former retreat participants, to help keep MCM women informed of our work and help us invite their input and engagement in the initiatives on which we embark together.
- Developing a more winsome name than the Mennonite Women Manitoba Working Group.

At our December 3 meeting we agreed on our new name and Logo: As of January 1, 2021 we will be WOVEN: Mennonite Women Together. Bethany (Epp) Bunko developed a logo under our advisement. We hope the name will help us connect with all ages of Mennonite Women and help us become a brave and safe space for women to gather virtually and someday soon, face to face.

Elsie Rempel, Chairperson, for WOVEN.



# 73rd Annual Gathering | March 7, 2020

Host Congregation: Altona Bergthaler Mennonite Church, Altona, MB

## Session #1

### 1. Opening comments – Gerald Gerbrandt

- Welcome
- Introduction of guests
  - AMBS: David Boshart (President), Brian Moyer-Suderman
  - Eden Mental Health Services and Recovery and Hope: Diane Suderman and Rita Peters
  - MCC: Brad Reimer and Darryl Loewen
  - Mennonite Church Albert: Tim Wiebe-Neufeld
  - Mennonite Disaster Service: Rudy Friesen
  - Parliamentarian: Erwin Warkentin
- Thanking musicians

### 2. Minutes – Ken Warkentin (in report book)

- **Acceptance of Minutes - Moved by Colleen Edmunds, seconded by John Klassen. *Carried.***

### 3. 2019 Board Actions – presented by Ken Warkentin

- **Acceptance of Board Actions - Moved by Colleen Edmunds, seconded by Neil Heinrichs.**
- Items arising from reviewing of Board Actions:
  - Is there is a job description available for the engagement coordinator position?
  - Gerald G: Response: there is, and it will be put on the website.
  - What are the plans for the new communication program?
  - Gerald G: there will be more conversation later in the day.
- Actions approved.

### 4. Nominations Committee – Bob Wiebe

- Thanked the Nomination Committee.
- Corrections:
  - MCM Board of Directors: Karen Tiessen (Trinity/Mather) will serve until March 2021, not March 2022
- **Adoption of slate moved by Bob Wiebe, seconded by Laverne Siemens - *Carried.***

### 5. Reflections Time with MCM – Ken Warkentin

- Response to sharing: loud applause!

### 6. Finances – Richard Klassen

- Recognition that the financial system does serve MCM very well, particularly because it is difficult to get monthly updates or statements
- Main points arising from presentation
  - Church donations have held up, if not increased
  - Expenses for Camp have gone down significantly
  - The total revenue is quite similar to 2018
- There will be time for questions in the afternoon session

## Session #2

### 7. Introduction of Board Members – Gerald Gerbrandt

### 8. Introduction of Mennonite Church Canada and MCM Staff – Ken Warkentin

## 9. Leadership Reports and Presentations

- Rick Neufeld, Ministerial Leadership:
  - There are congregations in our conference that are experiencing significant growth, and other congregations experiencing significant decline.
  - Video
- Positions are being filled and it looks good.
  - 60 people in pastoral positions in Manitoba
  - Many of these are new pastors
  - Anticipating a significant leadership void in the next 2-7 years, because of the ages of our pastors.
- Question: what are you seeing in your congregations?
- Video
- Doug Klassen, Mennonite Church Canada:
  - We need to encourage our young people to consider ministry and have opportunities to pay for them to do so.
  - Video
- Kathy Giesbrecht, Ministerial Leadership:
  - Senior high retreat focused on what voices we hear, and the senior youth had many ideas. It is the church's job to make sure our young people hear the voice of God.
  - We need to know the reasons youth stay up at night and what they are passionate about; we need to listen when they are telling us things like the Climate Strike are important; we need to show up with them.
  - Has received many calls at the office about wanting to be involved in ministry work, and these are humbling.
  - Video
- Terry Schellenberg, Canadian Mennonite University:
  - Some questions on behalf of CMU
  - What would a purpose statement for CMU from the church look like and how might it strengthen the relationship between the two?
  - How can MCM, its congregations and institutions, strengthen their ability to call people; to tap on the shoulder to call them to ministry?
  - How could a shared vision of graduate courses across the prairies (MCMB, MCSK, MCAB) help strengthen our pastors and congregations?
- Responses to Presentations by Leadership Staff
- Dave Bergen (Bethel Mennonite):
  - In regards to Terry's question (#3): Support of this shared vision and would also encourage CMU to maximize resource potential and use existing assets to do this kind of programming in combination and partnership with AMBS; this might look like an AMBS global identity that could be shared through individual institutions.
- Lorraine Reimer (Whitewater Mennonite):
  - Expresses gratitude for a live stream program that has allowed her to study at a graduate level while living outside of the city. Encourages the continuation of this, and having some sort of technological training available for people who might find it difficult to learn.
- Dan Kehler (Altona Mennonite)
  - Would it be possible to have CMU Master's student come and preach at churches that are struggling to find speakers?
- Erwin Warkentin (Bethel Mennonite)
  - Emphasis on calling one another in person, instead of letting our institutions do all the work; encouragement to tap people who we think would do well in ministry, in person.

## 10. Gerald Gerbrandt – Introduction of Small Groups

- Search Committee Listening Time
- Camps with Meaning Development Plan
- Communication Conversation: how do we most effectively communicate as churches?

## Session #3

### 11. Greetings from Mennonite Church Alberta – Tim Wiebe-Neufeld

- Thank you for this opportunity
- Wish Ken well in the next stage of his life
- Sharing about MCAB
  - 12 Churches in the conference
  - 5 languages spoken
  - Camp Valaqua as a vibrant partner
  - Dialogue with Muslim neighbours
  - A new vision and 3 year plan about encountering, embracing and embodying Christ

### 12. Mission Report – Dorothy Fontaine

- “Mission in an age of unbelief”
- Some thoughts from a Free Methodist Church leader, who works with local outreach amidst massive theological changes in Canada):
  - 46% of people don’t attend or care about church
  - the fastest growing group of people are folks who don’t care or know about the church
- Question: Where is the new energy/growth in our churches?
- Betty Pries (Instructor at U of Waterloo)
  - What is going on internally and how has that changed over time?
  - There are high percentages of pastors who don’t feel the scriptures move them, or don’t often pray. If this is the case, what are congregants feeling?
  - We are in an age of anxiety and distraction
  - Key Question: who have we been created to be?
- Andy Root (speaker at ReNew)
  - Where is God? Highlights the acknowledgments of God’s living presence in our lives is so important. What are the stories of God in your church?
- Question: What are our churches charism’s (identify, core, or main gifts)?
- Responses:
  - Singing
  - Possibility of being able to leave, allowed me to make the choice to stay – Home Street tells the truth
  - Lead pastor who is a very good teacher, which allows for many opportunities to learn
  - Fellowship and intentionality
  - Space for those who believe differently
  - Community and deep friendship
  - Peace and social justice
  - Surpassing struggles
- MCM will be partnering with New Leaf on another learning event
  - Congregations are invited to attend if this is something that interests them.

### 13. International Witness Update – Jeanette Hanson

- Video: Christine and Tom Poovong in Thailand
- Display of workers and programs across the world
- Trends within the International Witness world:
  - Decrease in long term commitments
  - Change in giving patterns
  - Increasing global community
  - International partners asking for long term relationship
  - Canadian congregations wanting to be more connected to the places and people that they are supporting.
- Questions:
  - How do changes we see locally affect the ways that we engage international partners?

- How do we work at a mutually transformative relationship with international partners?
- Responses:
  - Churches are interested in knowing where their money is going, but how are we supposed to get the money there? Are there solutions to the difficulty of getting money to certain international communities?
  - Jeanette: We rely on partners in other countries for transferring money, so it really depends on the situation.
  - Gerald: many of our churches are supporting specific communities or workers!

#### 14. Congregation Update – Erin Morash

- Comments on the combining of Trinity Mennonite and Mather Mennonite
  - This took two years to come to a decision
  - The amalgamation will take place on May 3rd, 2020.
  - A new name is yet to come
  - This is an exciting time, but it is also hard to let go and do something new, especially when you have to let go of something you care a lot about.
  - Hoping to see the fruit of the individual congregations in the next two months as they celebrate before the amalgamation

#### 15. Camps with Meaning (CwM) Update – Janet Peters

- Listening Tour with 15 churches over the last few years, where two questions were asked:
  - What does it mean that we are an Anabaptist Camp? How are we doing that?
  - How is camp impacting the young people in your church?
- Responses heard from pastors on the tour:
  - What does it mean that we are Anabaptist?
    - ◁ Through our vision and the way we do community
    - ◁ Peace and reconciliation, especially through the songs we write and the way we structure our days at camp
    - ◁ Invitational, without pressure
    - ◁ The call to be more intentional
    - ◁ Concerns about the biblical literacy for CwM staff body
  - How is camp impacting the young people in your church?
    - ◁ There is an overlap of people who work at camp and then participate in church
    - ◁ There are many who still come out of camp more sceptical of the church as an institution
    - ◁ Question: how can we invited young people who have passion all summer to transfer this passion to their churches?
  - Other comments:
    - ◁ Many people from MCM churches are sending their kids to other camps: how can we revitalize the connection between MCM and our camps?
- Thoughts from pastors:
  - offering congregations an afternoon free tour with lunch of the camps
  - offer more retreat options in the future
- Some questions for us now:
  - How can camps and churches work together to:
    - ◁ Re-center the Biblical Story and the invitation to deeper relationships in ways that engage and challenge our staff and campers?
    - ◁ Find ways to harness and nurture the energy and growth of camp staff after summer?
    - ◁ Reclaim the church's sense of ownership of camp and see camp as an extension of the church?
- Comments:
  - Appreciation of the the biblical teaching that goes on when volunteering in the kitchen – remains a reason to send kids to MCM camps

#### 16. Communication – Ken Warkentin and Darryl Neustaedter Barg

- Decision to end Frohe Botschaft
  - This ministry and Dorothea Kampen will be celebrated at Faith and Life Concerts

- New communication ministry ideas:
  - Sermon sharing
  - Podcasts
- Conversation on Print Media
  - Canadian Mennonite is still up and running, but print media and papers everywhere are dying
  - In Manitoba, the Canadian Mennonite is free. MCM covers this bill, yet we contribute the least to the magazine that the rest of the country. We may need to look at increasing the cost of subscription
- New website: this is a big undertaking that congregations can now join in on. Everyone will be able to communicate on the same platform.
- Email is the best way to receive weekly news and everyone can sign up for that.

### **17. CommonWord – Arlyn Friesen Epp**

- Five new efforts:
  - Website is going through a huge upgrade – targeted at the casual reader and pastor.
  - Binational partnering in “Together in Worship” which is an online Anabaptist worship material.
  - Partnering with MCC: Abuse Response and Prevention.
  - Collaboration with MennoMedia, and you can order through CommonWord for a discounted price.
  - n store: Fair Trade items will still be available, despite the closing of Ten Thousand Villages.
- Six ways to connect:
  - Ask the folks who work there
  - Host an event or order event
  - Save money on resources for your congregations
  - Contribute your own original materials to include on our website.
  - Recommend your favourite books and podcasts to us
  - Don’t miss our highlights; follow us with our bi-weekly curator and social media!

### **18. Indigenous Relations – in report book**

### **19. Finances – Richard Klassen**

- Review of Budget
- Colleen Edmunds moves to accept the budget, seconded by Kathleen Rempel Boschman
- Questions:
  - Budget includes a commitment of \$125,000 to Camps with Meaning. Last time we didn’t use that much, so why is it there again? Do we treat it the same as the money we give to places like CMU?
  - Richard: No, it doesn’t operate the same, because we don’t “own” the other places we give money to.
  - The two budgets are now shown separately. If we commit the same amount to camp every year, could that allow for camp to keep the excess money for a capital development?
  - Richard: Yes, that’s something we could look at pursuing.
  - The Mennonite Women program is closed, so where is that money now?
  - Ken: it has been moved to an internally restricted fund, but available for use to do with women’s programming.
- **Approval for the general budget? *Carried***
- **Approval for the Camps with Meaning budget? Moved by James Friesen, seconded by Colleen Edmunds, *Carried***

### **20. Affirmation of Nominations – Bob Wiebe**

- **Bob Wiebe moves approves the affirmation of the nominations, seconded by Earl Reimer, *Carried***

### **21. Unfinished Business/Comments/Questions**

- Thank you to those who came to the search committee conversation, but to those who didn’t – the questions are on our website with a place to leave your comments. We welcome your responses.
- What was said about the retreats at Camp?
- Janet Peters: There are not many available, but that is in the plans in order to get more congregations out to the space

of Camp

- It seems like there are frustrations from the Board with the financial statement process. Are there things in place moving forward to help with that?
- Richard Klassen: The Board is working on it. The frustration is not with the individuals, but with the system itself. We tried something this year and it sort of worked, and some of it didn't. The Board has put a task force together to look at the way the staffing is set up to address financial decisions and organizations.
- This is the end of the three- year moratorium on discussions about same-sex marriage, or sexual minority affirmation; what is the action plan going forward?
- Gerald Gerbrandt: No particular plan, but something the Board will need to raise in the next months.
- Thank you Dorothy for you questions earlier. There is a need for these discussions to continue.
- Gerald Gerbrandt: You can also respond on the website to how we should continue doing gatherings like this? Feedback is invited on the structure and use of the time for an event like today.
- In 2017, during the restructuring, there was a place designed to do some theological discernment. Where is that now? What are those plans?
- Doug Klassen: This kept getting bumped down on the agenda, but it is still in the plan, and on the agenda for the Joint Council. Additionally, there was concern about how much time MC Canada would get at a regional church gathering, but that does not seem to be a concern
- I am disappointed in our lack of conversation around areas of Indigenous relationship. It seems like it is all left to Steve.
- Dorothy Fontaine: As 2021 approaches, this is the 150 year anniversary of Treaty 1 and 2 and there is a question about what is the story of the treaties. This is not all different than churches, in their commitment to covenants. Question: What is your church's treaty story and what would you hope it to be?
- Do we need to re-think our belief? What if we move more toward an encounter of the mysterious? What are we experiencing in our lives and where is the spark of divine in this?
- Wondering about the compensation of camp staff. There is talk at Charleswood Mennonite Church about paying staff more? Should we be looking to have discussion about paying our camp staff more as a conference body?
- Janet Peters: I have been thinking about this a lot. The camp staff salaries have not been raised for 7 years. They are a little bit more this year, but a big amount would be more work for the churches to pay. Would love to receive feedback on what are fair wages and suggestions for how to make that happen.
- Kathy Giesbrecht: I've been a part of Manitoba Mennonite Women Working Group; this group is relatively new and has been really fun!
- I'm concerned with how isolated we might be from creation care. Might there be a hub where Mennonite churches could connect (an internet place?) to share and lament and have good conversation.
- Tim Wiebe-Neufeld: The Joint Council initiated a plan to address environment and social crisis. Two main things: How do we look at our own sustainability as MC Canada? And How do we help our congregations connect to each other so that we all have the tools? I will bring the idea of a hub back to Joint Council.

## 22. Announcements – Gerald Gerbrandt

- Both Dorothea Kampen and Ken Warkentin are leaving their positions in June: Thank you for your contributions! There will be an event with Board and Staff members later in the year to thank both of these people in a more formal way
- Rick Neufeld will step into the role of interim Executive Minister, starting on July 1, 2020. The Board is in the process of finding some extra administrative support for when Rick begins this extra position.
- Infuse has been moved to Saturday, April 18.
- In fall, there will be a study conference planned by MC Canada. It will take place on October 22-24, and is called "Table Talk: does the church have legs." The keynote speaker will be Sara Wenger Shenk.

## 23. Adjournment - 3:33pm

Recorder: Nadya Langelotz

# 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

*Rachel Siemens (Carman)*

### **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

*Ken Reddig (Pinawa) 2023*

### **Canadian Mennonite University**

Cheryl Pauls, President, 500 Shaftesbury Blvd. Winnipeg, MB R3P 2N2

Phone: 204-487-3300 ext. 667

*Mark Wiehler 2023 (Charleswood)*

### **Eden Health Care Services**

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

*Laura Unger (Glenlea) 2023*

*Emma Hamm (Hope) 2022*

*Ken Froese (Pembina Fellowship) 2022*

*James Schellenberg (Douglas) 2023*

*Wil Epp (Emmanuel) 2022*

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

Karl Koop, Director 600 Shaftesbury Blvd. Winnipeg, MB R3P 2N2

Phone: 204-487-3300 ext. 630

*Michael Pahl, MCM Executive Minister*

*Rick Neufeld, MCM Director of Leadership Ministries*

### **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

*Scott Kroeker (Fort Garry), Chair 2023*

*Allison Janzen (First) 2022*

*Dieter Schoenwetter (Fort Garry) (completing term)*

### **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

*Kevin Drudge (Covenant) 2023*

*Yvonne Stoesz (Pembina) 2022*

*Kelsey Hutton (Hope) (completing term)*

### **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 (Prairie), Chair 2024
- Laverne Siemens (Gretna) 2024
- Harold Schlegel (Covenant) 2023
- Julia Thiessen (Charleswood) 2022
- Marla Langelotz (Sargent) 2023
- Harold Peters Fransen (Elim) (completing term)

### **Camp Committee**

- Reynold Friesen (FaithWorks – non-MCM), Chair 2023
- Sandy Plett (Pembina) 2022
- Myles Tiessen (Prairie) 2022
- Andrew Klassen Brown (Sterling) 2023

### **Nominations Committee**

- Bob Wiebe (Charleswood), Chair (completing term)
- Nicolien Klassen-Wiebe (Charleswood) 2022
- Ken Kroeker (Morden) 2022
- Trevor Friesen-Stoesz (Altona Bergthaler) 2023

# Nominations Slate

Name	Term	Term Expiry
<b>Nominating Committee</b> (appointed by MCM Board)		
VACANT		2024
<b>Ministerial Leadership Committee</b> (appointed by MCM Board)		
Erin Morash (Prairie)	Second	2024
Laverne Siemens (Gretna)	Second	2024
<b>Inter-Mennonite Campus Ministry</b> (appointed by MCM Board)		
Susan Reynar (Home Street)	First	2022
<b>MCC Manitoba</b> (appointed by MCM Board)		
VACANT		2022
<b>Eden Health Care Services</b> (appointed by MCM Board)		
Lawrence Siemens (Morden)	Second	2024
Cheryl Braun (Glenlea)	Second	2024
VACANT		2023
<b>CMU Graduate School of Theology</b> (appointed by MCM Board)		
Melanie Kampen (Into Account – non-MCM)	First	2024
<b>MCM Board of Directors</b> (elected by MCM delegates)		
Gerald Gerbrandt (Bethel), Moderator	Second	2024
Karen Tiessen, West/North (Prairie)	First	2024
Andrea Hildebrand, South (Altona Mennonite)	First	2024
Don Rempel Boschman, Winnipeg (Douglas)	First	2024
<b>MCM Camp Committee</b> (endorsed/appointed by MCM Board)		
Reynold Friesen (FaithWorks – non-MCM)	Second	2023
Dave Wiebe (Springstein)	Second	2024
<b>Mennonite Church Canada Nominating Committee</b> (appointed by MCM Board)		
Randy Hildebrand (Springstein)	First	2024
<b>Mennonite Church Canada Joint Council</b> (appointed by MCM Board)		
Andrea De Avila (Sargent)	Second	2023

# 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) 2024  
Andrea De Avila (Sargent) (Appointed) 2023

*Nominating Committee*  
Randy Hildebrand (Springstein) 2024

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)



## Executive Minister's report

*"I will build my church." (Matt. 16:18); I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Matt. 28:20).*

With the recent release of the *Voices Together* hymnal, my familiarity with *Hymnal: A Worship Book* will soon fade. Like many of you, I have turned to that book weekly for worship planning. As a result, lyrics and tunes often come to mind during the blessings and challenges of my day. One hymn that has remained close since the middle of March is hymn #570 "We walk by faith." Centered around Jesus's post-resurrection encounter with his disciples in John 20:19ff, the hymn speaks of abounding hope. Though we cannot "touch his hands and side, nor follow where he trod, yet in his promise we rejoice, and cry, 'My Lord and God!'"



Since mid-March I have been repeatedly asked if I worry what COVID-19 will do to the Church. I respond that I'm not worried about the future of the capital "C" church because it is sustained by the promises of Jesus and empowered by the Holy Spirit. In Matthew's gospel, Jesus says he will build the church and that he is always with us.

I am concerned, however, about denominational ecclesiology, leadership structures and the expressions of the church in our localities (church with a small "c"). Indeed our larger, nationwide church has sensed shifts for some time and even acted in response to some of them, with the Future Directions Task Force. COVID-19 is accelerating further change at a pace we didn't predict or

plan for. Many of you are experiencing this in your local church setting. You know that, when the pandemic is over, we won't return to church as normal. In these uncertain times, "we walk by faith, and not by sight," just as Jesus's disciples did.

A sincere and heartfelt thank you to the hundreds of people serving in our nationwide church with your time, talents and abilities. For some it has been a very difficult summer and fall, yet we press on in faith and hope. May we all continue to draw strength from each other and from the One who "we believe (is) near."

I'm excited to share with you the formation of three new groups giving leadership to our denomination in the coming year. While given a nationwide focus, these groups will also have expressions at regional church and congregational levels:

- **Community of Spiritual Leaders (COSL)**  
Recommended by the Future Directions Task Force, the development of a COSL is now underway. The group will assist our denomination in nurturing a strong Anabaptist identity, discern issues facing the church, provide encouragement and support for spiritual leaders, help develop leadership and support credentialing and mutual accountability. The first COSL meeting is in December 2020.
- **Sustainability Leadership Group (SLG)**  
This group will consider ways in which our denomination can improve its environmental, social and economic sustainability, in the present and in the long-term.
- **Intercultural Church Steering Committee (ICSC)**  
This steering committee will work as a group of "ecclesial cartographers" – church map-makers, charting a path for Mennonite Church Canada to become an intercultural church that embraces cultural diversity and learns from our BIPOC brothers and sisters. Initial work may include exploring and arranging training sessions on intercultural awareness and hosting a symposium where BIPOC participants meet to make recommendations for our nationwide church.

Submitted by  
Doug Klassen  
Executive Minister  
[dklassen@mennonitechurch.ca](mailto:dklassen@mennonitechurch.ca)

# CommonWord

Bookstore and Resource Centre

As the nationwide bookstore and resource centre, CommonWord is privileged to have regular interactions with avid readers, small group leaders, pastors and others within our Mennonite Church Canada family and across the ecumenical church. We also serve the needs of the Canadian Mennonite University community on the Shaftesbury campus in Winnipeg, Man. In all we do, we strive to make Anabaptist and related resources easily available to buy, borrow or access online. Here are our 2020 highlights:

## Three new website resources available to congregations

- On May 5, CommonWord helped launch Mennonite Central Committee's revised website, [abuseresponseandprevention.ca](http://abuseresponseandprevention.ca). This collaborative project hosts resources on abuse, family violence, clergy sexual misconduct and more.
- On June 1 we launched our new website at [commonword.ca](http://commonword.ca). This more robust and user-friendly web platform makes it simpler to buy, borrow or access Anabaptist resources online.



Together in Worship leadership team.

- In November, CommonWord helped launch [togetherinworship.net](http://togetherinworship.net) with Together in Worship. Together, we curated over 1,500 digital, Anabaptist worship materials, including visual art, music, videos and words for worship, with more to come. All are available for free from Together in Worship or CommonWord.

## Resource promotions

- This fall's [CommonRead](#) title was *Signs of Life*.

Beginning in January, we encourage congregations to read *I Am Not Your Enemy*, a collection of sacred stories about reconciliation and justice.

- *Wrongs to Rights*, a Mennonite Church Canada study resource on the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, is now [free through CommonWord](#). This work is relevant even more now that the federal government has tabled Bill C-15.



- For many months we have actively promoted materials that relate directly to current issues such as the pandemic and racial injustice. We encourage you to engage these important conversations.

## New resources

- This fall, Mennonite Church Canada and MCC released *Be It Resolved*, a 450-page anthology of over 90 documents detailing commitments Anabaptists have made to Indigenous justice and decolonization.
- In late November, the long-awaited *Voices Together* hymnal editions arrived. Individual or small orders of the pew, accompaniment and large-print editions, and CDs, can be placed with [CommonWord](#). Bulk copies and digital recordings can be purchased directly through [MennoMedia](#).
- We stock all Herald Press titles (to buy or borrow), including *The Jesus Way: Small Books of Radical Faith*. Curricula and periodicals continue to be available directly through [MennoMedia](#).

CommonWord has been directly impacted by COVID-19. I am grateful for church and university support as we guided our ministry through various levels of pandemic restriction; for our staff who weathered temporary layoffs, worked from home and adapted to greater online customer service; and for your continued trust as we advance resources that seek to strengthen the church – even, or perhaps especially, in these strange times.

Submitted by Arlyn Friesen Epp  
 Director of CommonWord  
[afriesenepp@commonword.ca](mailto:afriesenepp@commonword.ca)

# Indigenous-Settler Relations

Highlights from 2020:

## Federal government tables Declaration legislation



For the past five years, Indigenous-Settler Relations (ISR) has worked tirelessly alongside Indigenous organizations and faith communities advocating for federal legislation to implement the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* in Canada. On Dec. 3, we realized a significant step toward that goal when the federal government tabled Bill C-15, An Act Respecting the *UN Declaration*. "It is a good day!" said Chief Wilton Littlechild, former Commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. If Bill C-15 reaches Royal Assent, it will affirm the *Declaration's* application in Canadian law and provide a framework to align law and policy with the minimum standards and rights affirmed in the *Declaration*. To read the full text of the legislation, [see Bill C-15](#). To read the *Declaration* Coalition's statement of support (ISR is a signatory to this Coalition) and resources for further learning, visit [declarationcoalition.com](http://declarationcoalition.com).

## Be It Resolved: remembering our covenant promises

After a year of research, editing and design-work, ISR released our latest resource, *Be It Resolved: Anabaptists & Partner Coalitions Advocate for Indigenous Justice*. This anthology, co-produced by Mennonite Church Canada and MCC, brings together over 90 documents



that trace the history of Anabaptist commitments to Indigenous justice and decolonization since the mid-1960s. With an eight-session study guide, our prayer is that congregations, small groups and the regional ISR working groups will find *Be It Resolved* an empowering resource that nurtures joy and courage. Joy as we grow in awareness of the covenants we have made to right historic wrongs, and courage to "flesh" these sacred promises into the present with collective action. May it be! Read an [interview](#) and [article](#) about this resource. Order through [CommonWord](#).

## Evangelical Fellowship of Canada makes seven commitments for right relations

In 2019, the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (EFC)



EFC ISR Working Group.

formed an ISR Working Group in response to a call from Indigenous Christian leaders for the EFC to look back at its history of engagement

with Indigenous peoples and identify barriers to meaningful and sustained evangelical work that moves toward reconciliation. ISR, on behalf of Mennonite Church Canada, was invited to participate in this group, along with reps from other denominations. Through online meetings over many months the group drafted a set of seven commitments (together with [a background paper](#)) that the EFC is now taking up in pursuit of right relations. [These commitments were publicly released in June](#). These significant promises could, over time, have a real impact on the larger evangelical community. EFC is now creating (based on the guidance of the EFC ISR working group) an Indigenous Advisory Council that will inform EFC's work on the implementation of the seven commitments. Read an [interview](#) with EFC.

Good things are happening. Stay tuned for more in the months ahead!

Submitted by Steve Heinrichs  
 Director of Indigenous-Settler Relations  
[sheinrichs@mennonitechurch.ca](mailto:sheinrichs@mennonitechurch.ca)  
[mennonitechurch.ca/indigenous](http://mennonitechurch.ca/indigenous)

# International Witness

This year I learned gratitude as I witnessed individuals and congregations across Canada, despite many changes and challenges, reach out to brothers and sisters around the world with gifts of prayer, encouragement and financial support. It is a true testament to God's Spirit moving among us that we chose to open our hearts even as we were forced to close our doors. Here are some stories about the work of International Witness (IW) in 2020. Click on the links throughout to read the full stories.

## International Witness invites congregations to participate in Witness Support Networks

In 2020 five groups of congregational representatives met online with Witness workers and international partners forming Witness Support Networks. Each Network supports one specific ministry, and receives updates and information about that ministry from Witness workers. Witness Support Networks provide a way for congregations in our nationwide family of faith to connect more closely with international ministries and partners. We have much to learn from each other. For more information, visit [mennonitechurch.ca/witness-support-networks](https://mennonitechurch.ca/witness-support-networks).

## Support shown for Witness workers and ministries through COVID-19 shutdown

**International Witness Workers**

- China: George and Tobia Veith
- Thailand: Tom and Christine Poovong
- Philippines: Dann and Joji Pantoja
- South Korea: Bock Ki Kim and Sook Kyoung Park

All our Witness workers were able to stay in their places of ministry and continue working during various levels of shutdowns. The Witness Support Network for ministry in the Philippines provided extra funding to help support the program there as local income from coffee sales dried up.

## New initiatives supported by IW include:

- a focus on Anabaptist training through [a resourcing network in Asia](#),
- [social enterprise in Burkina Faso](#),
- literacy classes in Congo,
- [income generation in Thailand](#) and
- an agreement to learn together with Bethlehem Bible College.

## Walking alongside our global brothers and sisters in times of crises



*Pastors serving in Tigray region.*

We prayed for and with brothers and sisters in the Philippines and Vietnam as typhoons hit their countries. We stood beside Mennonite Church

Colombia as they [issued a strong, public call for peace](#) amid violence and displacement in experienced in rural communities. We learned from the Palestinian Christian community through conversations with Bethlehem Bible College staff. We [contacted leaders and prayed for peace](#) in the war-torn Tigray region of Ethiopia.

## International Witness Sunday strengthens relationships across nationwide community of faith



Congregations across our nationwide community of faith took part in International Witness Sunday

in October. This will be an annual event that not only celebrates the work of IW but invites participation and mutual learning, giving and sharing between our Canadian congregations and our global brothers and sisters. Videos, worship resources and more are available at [mennonitechurch.ca/IW-Sunday](https://mennonitechurch.ca/IW-Sunday).

Submitted by Jeanette Hanson  
 Director of International Witness  
[jhanson@mennonitechurch.ca](mailto:jhanson@mennonitechurch.ca)  
[mennonitechurch.ca/international-witness](https://mennonitechurch.ca/international-witness)



## 2020 IN REVIEW MCEC

201 - 50 KENT AVENUE,  
KITCHENER ON, N2G 3R1  
TELEPHONE: LOCAL 226-476-2500  
TOLL FREE 855-476-2500  
WEBSITE: WWW.MCEC.CA



A Word From Leah Reesor-Keller , Executive Minister  
lreesorkeller@mcec.ca

### COURAGEOUS IMAGINATION

Hello Mennonite Church Canada! Greetings from your siblings in Christ in Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick. This past year was a year like no other. A highlight of this difficult time was taking part in the Mennonite Church Canada series of nationwide services that brought us into each other’s church sanctuaries and living rooms across the country.

This has been a year of significant changes at MCEC, marking David Martin’s retirement after 15 years of faithful service as Executive Minister. MCEC also welcomed Fanosie Legesse into a new staff role as Intercultural Mission Minister. I began my role with MCEC in September 2020. I am seeking to listen deeply, ask reflective questions, foster relationships of mutuality between congregations, and hold space for new dreams and visions of what it means to be an Anabaptist Christian. We’re on a journey together that requires courageous imagination to open us to seeing where the Spirit is at work among us, across Canada and in the world.

I am excited to walk this journey together as an MCEC community of faith, and as part of our nationwide church body. May God guide our feet and illuminate our path as we walk together!



Warden Underground  
Prepared for Deliveries



Grace New Life Mennonite  
Baptism and Worship

### MCEC Community of Congregations

- 97 Congregations
  - 82 Full Membership
  - 14 Provisional Membership
  - 1 Long-Term Church Plant
- Worship in 16 Languages

### Congregational Stories of Hope

- [www.mcec.ca/news](http://www.mcec.ca/news)

### Supporting Pastors & Congregational Leaders

- *Pastoral Conversations* - ministering in a pandemic
- *Learning Commons* - a flexible learning space
- *Administrators Day* - on-line Communications 101 and networking day for administrative assistants across Mennonite Church Canada

### Supporting Congregations

- *Nationwide Website Hub* launched in February with 21 Pilot Congregations / Camps
- *Innovate* - providing discipleship resourcing to congregations including Relearning Community
- Jr. Youth Creation Care Online Retreat Resources
- Treaty as Sacred Covenant Story-telling Series

### Congregational Transitions in 2020

- Full Membership
  - Grace New Life Mennonite Church
- Provisional Membership
  - Mennonite Disciples Mission Joliette
  - Soul House
  - Warden Underground
- Closed
  - Église évangélique mennonite de Joliette
  - Jane Finch Faith Community
- 6 Withdrawn & Released Congregations



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## **The MENNONITE CHURCH BRITISH COLUMBIA (MCBC) Story to the Nationwide Regional Churches for 2020, Submitted by Garry Janzen, Executive Minister**

*Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. Hebrews 12:2*

A popular song that many of us have sung in our churches over the past number of years is, “Jesus, Be the Centre.” Over the past decade we have become familiar with the clear understanding of what it means to be an Anabaptist Christian from Palmer Becker’s writings: *Jesus is the Centre of our Faith, Community is the Centre of our Lives, and Reconciliation is the Centre of our Work*. We have come to embrace centredness as an image of our relationship to Jesus. MCBC has had a Restructuring Task Group that has been working over a period of two years to find a way to live into MCBC’s key themes. After a year of much theological discussion, the Task Group has moved to a centred model, and is suggesting Hebrews 12:2 as our MCBC theme verse, “Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.” Our ministry themes are: Cultivating Anabaptist Vision, Engaging God’s World, and Growing Community. The MCBC Leadership Board is proposing the outcomes of this restructuring process to our 2021 Annual Gathering in February for discernment and approval.

A task group was formed this year to figure out the sale of the property of the former Clearbrook Mennonite Church. The progress of this work will be presented to the 2021 MCBC Annual Gathering.

Ever since March of 2020, our congregations have been trying to figure out what they can and cannot do according to the COVID-19 government restrictions, and according to what we understand to be safe practices. The amazing piece about these restrictions is that they are like the Gospel – they ask us to stay six feet away from others and to wear masks in order to keep the other person safe. This is the Gospel in that we are being called to think of others first before thinking of ourselves.

We had the privilege of conducting our 2020 Annual Gathering in person at Cedar Valley Church in Mission on February 29<sup>th</sup>. It was one of the last things we did safely in person without masks on. We have converted our monthly pastors’ lunch gatherings into virtual gatherings on Zoom. We started weekly in the spring and have now gone to bi-weekly and monthly. Our congregations have learned so much about how to meet virtually. While most of us long for the day when we can meet in person, without masks, and give each other hugs, we have found meaningful ways to be the church in a pandemic. Even our Nationwide gatherings of the Executive Staff Group and the MC Canada Joint Council have managed as fully virtual meetings, but with a deep longing for the day when we will be in person again.

As we are now in a stage of extensive transmission of the COVID-19 virus, we will not be meeting in person until probably Easter 2021. This means that our MCBC Annual Gathering will be virtual on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021. We plan to keep it to three hours on Saturday morning. All the verbal presentations will be pre-recorded, and delegates will be expected to watch these ahead of time, as well as read the written reports. Our meeting will primarily be discussion in response to these reports and related decision making.

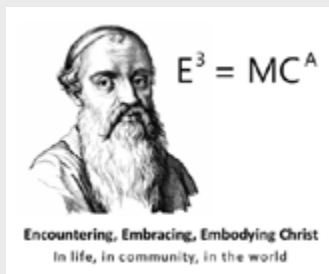
In the midst of all the pandemic restrictions, we have had an ordination, with a small group gathered in person and the rest of the participants gathered on Zoom, including family members from other parts of BC and the USA. We have also done pastoral searches, candidated and welcomed new pastors. We have not yet done an installation service, due to the latest restrictions on in person gatherings.

2020 will certainly be a year to remember – with God at work, and the church trying to figure out what engaging in God’s work looks like in the midst of a pandemic on a daily basis. Many good plans were just not able to happen. We have also learned some things that will serve us well into the future which we will keep.



## ANNUAL REPORT 2020

*MCA consists of 12 congregations with 1100 participants worshipping in 5 languages.*



**Year 1 of E3**, a 3-year action plan, focused on “in life.” The **E3 Reference Group** prepared a bucket list of ideas to deepen our faith and encourage new spiritual practices.

Click [here](#) for all things E3.

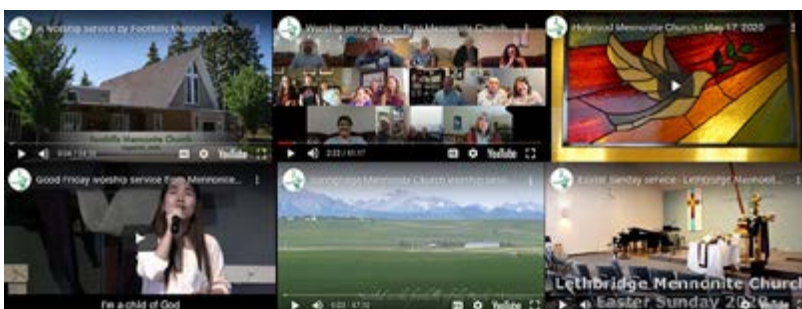
*Other E3 resources include:*

- Weekly prayers shared with congregations
- Reflections on encounters with Christ can be found in the Communiqué, in Canadian Mennonite and on the MCA website
- Pandemic-friendly resources guided congregations in worship on September 27
- The online **Advent Calendar** encouraged the practices of Lectio Divina and Visio Divina
- **CommonWord** curated a list of [E3 resources](#)

In 2021 we will move to **Year 2**, “in community.”

## The Church: People not Buildings

A popular saying circulated in March, as church doors closed to in-person worship. We were reminded that the church has not “closed” due to the pandemic, because the church is *people*, and not *buildings*. In 2020 we saw people across our nationwide family give life to this truth.



MCA churches provided 6 worship services for our MC Canada family

**Flexibility** - Our MCA delegate sessions were cancelled one week before they were to take place and MCA Executive requested a one-week delay to prepare for online sessions. At the tip of the iceberg of uncertainty, congregations and delegates were supportive and adapted. Over the weeks, as one upcoming event after another was cancelled, staff, committees and volunteers took up the challenge to explore what *could* happen, instead of what couldn't.

**Celebration & Connection** - Perhaps ironically, 2020 was a year of connection. **Tim Wiebe-Neufeld** (Executive Minister) was more frequently and deeply involved in congregational and pastoral support. **Pastors Council** met more often, encouraging one another, updating resources and adjusting to changing needs. In a small window of opportunity, pastors were able to meet in person for a retreat. During the November **congregational check-in**, we listened as each congregation shared challenges and celebrations in their COVID journey.

**New Initiatives** - Virtual connections flourished in 2020. **Donna Entz** (North Edmonton Ministries) and **Jon Olfert** (Camp Valaqua) hosted two series exploring how to **Engage** in relationships that transcend culture,





**Staff transition:** In July we said “goodbye” to **June Miller** and “hello” to **Ruth Bergen Braun** in the position of *Communications Coordinator*. Together with the Community Building and Program Committee, June and Ruth have added lighter moments to church life, encouraging sharing and stories of engagement on social media, on the website and in the Communiqué.

.....

**www.mcab.ca** launched in February, providing a new home for our growing content. An important addition to the website is a page with information and resources on reporting misconduct in our church community.

.....

**Important dates:**  
**March 20-21** - MCA Annual Delegate Sessions and worship



**July 2022** - Mennonite World Conference, Indonesia;  
**Rebecca Janzen** is our *MCA Global Youth Summit* delegate

**July 2022** - MC Canada Gathering, Edmonton

race and faith. NEM Book clubs, dialogues and scriptural reasoning classes moved online, creating opportunities for people across the province to become involved. Online **Weekly Prayers** grew out of Pastors Council as a way to deepen our prayer lives and to uphold one another.

**Generosity** - Early uncertainty about how giving might be affected by the pandemic proved unfounded, as congregants demonstrated that their commitment to giving ran deeper than the passing of an offering plate. **Camp Valaqua** families donated children’s registrations when summer programming was cancelled. The **Hike-a-Thon** far exceeded its previous donation record. Seven young adults received **student bursaries**, encouraging exploration of faith, education, career and life. Financial gifts to the **Calgary Chin Church** will enable them to move into their new church home soon. Witnessing this outpouring of support first-hand is one of the privileges of being involved in MCA.



**Hope for the future** - We march on! **Faith Studies** will take place this year, either online or in person, and we are confident that there will be a summer Camp program even if creative juices are tapped deep. Ongoing congregational support continues to be a priority, as congregations explore how to provide activities beyond worship with children, families, young adults and seniors. We pray that in 2021 the doors may be opened to respond to the invitation for teaching and fellowship with South Sudanese churches in Ethiopia.

I look to the year ahead with confidence. I see the significant things we are able to do as MCA and as part of our nationwide faith family, and celebrate being church together!

Brenda Tiessen-Wiens  
 Moderator



## Mennonite Church Saskatchewan 2020 Annual Report

Mennonite Church Saskatchewan (MC Sask) is a community of 25 congregations who have covenanted together to be Christ Centred & Sent. We support each other in ministry, do things together which we cannot do alone, are church together throughout the province, and connect to the larger Mennonite Church body through Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite World Conference.



As we were preparing to *Deepen Our Walk with Each Other & The World* at the 2020 MC Sask Delegate Sessions in March, everything came to a halt. “COVID”, “pivot”, and “Zoom” filled our everyday language as the year we were anticipating did not come to fruition. And yet, as a resilient people, the work and life of MC Sask adapted and continued as we found new ways to walk with each other and the world.

### Congregational Transitions

Throughout the year, transitions continued to take place in creative, ‘COVID-safe’ ways, with virtual or outdoor attendance making many of the following events possible.

On May 31, the life of **Superb Mennonite Church** (MC) was celebrated as the congregation held their final worship service and brought their ministry to a close. On August 23, the MC Sask community gathered at Zoar MC to celebrate the ordination of their pastor, **Andrea Enns-Gooding**. In October, **Zoar MC** also celebrated their 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. This event was bittersweet as Zoar MC has decided to close their doors in the spring of 2021. **Josh Wallace** completed his term as pastor of Warman MC in January to enter into church planting with his wife, Cindy. Grace MC, Regina, celebrated the ministry of **Rose Graber** as she retired at the end of June and welcomed **Rodney Hennessay** as their new pastor on October 1. **Claire Ewert Fisher** concluded her interim ministry at Rosthern MC and became co-pastor at Mount Royal MC. **Ed Olfert** concluded his ministry at Grace MC, Prince Albert, at the end of December.

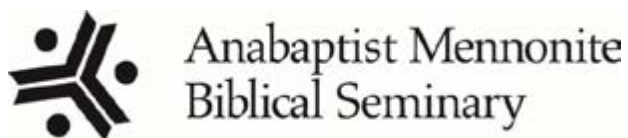
### The Work of the Church: Regionally, Nationwide, Internationally

As 2020 began, **Scott Feick** and **Sarah Unrau** served in interim roles in youth ministry, but when COVID restrictions arrived, all MC Sask youth programming ceased. Our camps (**Elim, Shekinah, Youth Farm**) were significantly impacted by the lack of programming and rentals, however, building upgrades and outdoor activities (like a Fall Pastor’s Gathering, Corn Maze) were able to take place when guidelines allowed. We had the unique opportunity to gather with sisters and brothers across **MC Canada** on a weekly basis over the spring and summer by participating in online worship services, which several of our congregations and pastors, and **Rosthern Junior College**, provided as well. MC Sask has a long history of supporting the work of MC Canada and **International Witness**, and this year we have seen the support and engagement of this work increase in exciting ways. The work of the church opens us up to mutually transformative relationships that allow us to deepen our walk with our neighbours across the street and around the world.

While 2020 was not the year we expected, and we certainly mourn the losses we have experienced, we are grateful for the ongoing support, prayer and work we do together as we seek to be Christ Centred & Sent!

Sincerely,  
Your staff,

Ryan, Kirsten, Josh & Marianne



## Report to Mennonite Church Manitoba

### 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 us — whether in person or at a distance — 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, matching grants and scholarships to help make your education affordable. [ambs.ca/financialaid](https://ambs.ca/financialaid)
- **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:** Talk with students, faculty and staff and learn what AMBS has to offer! [ambs.ca/visit](https://ambs.ca/visit)

#### *Center for Faith Formation and Culture*

- **!Explore: A Theological Program for High School Youth:** Students in grades 10–12 can explore ministry and theology, grow in spiritual practices and listen for God's call through a summer congregational internship and a Group Experience. Participants receive a \$1,000 stipend. Tap a shoulder! [ambs.ca/explore](https://ambs.ca/explore)

AMBS: Rooted in the Word, Growing in Christ | March 2021  
3003 Benham Avenue, Elkhart, IN 46517 | 574.295.3726  
[facebook.com/followAMBS](https://facebook.com/followAMBS)  
[twitter.com/ambs\\_seminary](https://twitter.com/ambs_seminary)  
[instagram.com/ambs\\_seminary](https://instagram.com/ambs_seminary)  
[ambs.ca/news-events](https://ambs.ca/news-events)

#### **Regional church connections**

##### **New AMBS Board member from MC Manitoba:**

Rachel Siemens (Carman)

##### **AMBS student from MC Manitoba:**

MDiv Connect: Josh Janzen (Bergthaler)

#### **AMBS statistics**

- In the fall of 2020, 128 graduate students were enrolled at AMBS — 92 as admitted students and 36 as guest students or auditors. Eighty-two were from the U.S., nine were Canadian, and 37 were international students.
- The nondegree Journey Missional Leadership Development Program has 24 students in Canada, the U.S. and Southeast Asia.
- The 2020 graduating class comprised nine women and six men from five countries on three continents.

#### *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 six-week online courses:
  - Exploring Anabaptist History and Theology
  - Exploring Peace and Justice in the Bible
  - Understanding Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture: What's Different and Why?
  - Transforming Congregational Conflict and Communication
  - A Worship Leader's Intro to *Voices Together*  
[ambs.ca/shortcourses](https://ambs.ca/shortcourses)
- **Pastors and Leaders 2021** (March 1–4, online!)  
[ambs.ca/pastorsandleaders](https://ambs.ca/pastorsandleaders)
- **Journey: A Missional Leadership Development Program:** This two-and-a-half-year nondegree program offers mentor-mentee partnerships, distance-learning opportunities and community support. [ambs.ca/journey](https://ambs.ca/journey)
- **Spiritual Direction Seminars:** Cultivate your ministry of spiritual direction. [ambs.ca/seminars](https://ambs.ca/seminars)
- **Invite AMBS!** Faculty and staff are available to interact with you via videoconference on topics such as trauma-informed caregiving, intercultural competence, undoing racism, leadership for God's reconciling mission, and more. [ambs.ca/invite](https://ambs.ca/invite)



## CANADIAN MENNONITE

## 2020 Report on Manitoba

Throughout the pandemic, *Canadian Mennonite* heeded God’s call to help build the church community. When congregations can’t worship in-person and neighbours can’t visit over coffee, *CM* helps people connect with the church and strengthens a sense of common purpose. By sharing news, columns, letters, and photos, we get to know one another better. Reading together with our church family across the country helps us care for one another and work together.



**Nicolien  
Klassen-  
Wiebe**

Stories and writers from Manitoba are important as *CM* works to build up the church community. Jose Luis Moraga wrote our first feature of 2020, “Encountering the gifts of a global church”. Correspondent Nicolien Klassen-Wiebe wrote 49 stories for Manitoba including her feature on Mennonite radio, an interview with Ken Warkentin and congregational stories like the choir from First Mennonite rehearsing during the pandemic. Steve Heinrichs, Rick Neufeld and Kathy Giesbrecht contributed to the From Our Leaders column. Aaron Epp works as Online Media Manager from Winnipeg. Will Braun continues as Senior Writer from Morden. Numerous individuals sent in letters to the editor or wrote other articles, letters and blogs.

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

Whether you read the magazine on paper or on your mobile device; whether you visit our website or follow us on social media; whether you write letters, post comments, or discuss the articles at church; we at *Canadian Mennonite* are grateful that you connect with our national church family through the magazine.

### In 2020 *Canadian Mennonite* had:

- 26 issues
- 136 stories and photos from Manitoba
- 911 other articles about the church in Canada and beyond
- 5,000 followers on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram
- 9,500 subscribers
- 200,000 website visitors

### Print and digital delivery

For most *CM* issues, subscribers receive a mailed print copy and/or an emailed PDF of the print magazine. Each year, four issues are digital-only, with links to the articles right in the email message.

Each subscriber can have a print issue mailed and a digital copy emailed to up to two email addresses in the same household.

To add digital delivery to your subscription, email **Lisa Jacky** at [office@canadianmennonite.org](mailto:office@canadianmennonite.org).



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.

### 2020-21 Enrolment

902 Full-time equivalent

690 Shaftesbury campus (628 FTE)

611 Undergraduate

79 Graduate

76% Manitoba; 24% other provinces and international

83 International students, 28 countries

274 FTE Menno Simons College

(CMU programming in Conflict Resolution and International Development at UW)

### Church-Rooted University

#### Undergraduate degree programs

in Arts, Sciences, Humanities, Social Sciences, Biblical and Theological Studies (BA majors in BTS and Christian Ministry), Music, Business, Communications & Media.

**Graduate degrees** feature MBA, Peacebuilding and Development, and Seminary programs.

#### Biblical and Theological Studies (BTS)

Eighteen credit hours of BTS in all undergraduate degrees.

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

Anabaptist-Ecumenical Seminary learning in a Canadian university context.

Three degree streams:

**MA Christian Ministry**

**MA Theological Studies**

**Master of Divinity**

**Chapels** centred on Hebrews 11:1-3

"By Faith we Understand"

**Live-Streaming:** Access Xplore courses, Face2Face conversations, ReNew pastors resourcing ... wherever you are!



## Greetings from Canadian Mennonite University

The challenges of a global pandemic have highlighted the quality of education offered by CMU. Visit [media.cmu.ca/cmu-faculty-reflections](https://media.cmu.ca/cmu-faculty-reflections) to watch videos of faculty reflecting on courses described below.

**Sundar John Boopalan, Assistant Professor of Biblical and Theological Studies, *Reading the Bible as a Witness to Liberation*:** In exploring the Biblical witness, we discovered how God's liberation encompasses all of who we are, including our personal, spiritual selves and our social-structural lives.

**Rachel Krause, Assistant Professor of Biology, *Introduction to Global Health*:** Studying global health, immunity, ethics, human rights and vaccines became highly relevant for students in the midst of our global pandemic.

**Anna Nekola, Assistant Professor of Music, *History of Gospel*:** While encountering the struggle and faith embodied in gospel music, several students composed new gospel hymns expressing their longing to connect with God's deliverance.

**David Balzer, Assistant Professor of Communications and Media, *Introduction to Communications and Media*:** Expanding an audio interview to include family members about 'why studying communications is so important to their job?' led to fascinating insights.

**Jobb Arnold, Assistant Professor Conflict Resolution Studies, *MSC Introduction to Conflict Resolution Studies*:** Exploring personal and community trauma and conflict related to the use of methamphetamines and opioids impacted students deeply. CMU's spiritual commitments were among the values and practices that resourced our study.

**James Magnus-Johnston, Director, Centre for Resilience, Lecturer in Business, *Social Innovation Lab*:** Integrating theory, research, and practice, students partnered and proposed solutions for particular problems being encountered by different community organizations and businesses.

**Irma Fast Dueck, Associate Professor of Practical Theology, *Introduction to Christianity*:** Understanding Christian faith 'from the bottom up' involved students listening to people from diverse backgrounds share how experiences of 'interruption' shaped their faith.

The words of **Jaden Krahn (Environmental Studies Major, Outtatown graduate), 4th year, Calgary, AB:** I continue to attend a Mennonite university because of the broader church and community that it connects me to. CMU is an academic community, a social community, and a community of faith—all commitments that are dearly important to me during these formative years of my life. CMU is a university where I have the chance to be who I am in a place of academic rigour, where weekly chapels, forums, fellowship groups, and professors help me to understand more of myself and who God is.

[cmu.ca](https://cmu.ca)



Mennonite Men is the men's ministry of Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church USA. Our mission: *Engaging men to grow, give and serve as followers of Jesus.*

### Supporting New Churches with JoinHands

Despite the COVID-19 crisis, we had our biggest year ever with our JoinHands program helping newer churches acquire their first building. Thanks to the remarkable generosity of our donors, we extended \$170,000 USD to five congregations in 2020!

On the Canadian front, we provided a \$40,000 USD grant to the **Calgary Christian Chin Church** to assist in the purchase and renovation of their first property. The vision is that this new space will serve their congregation and be the platform for reaching

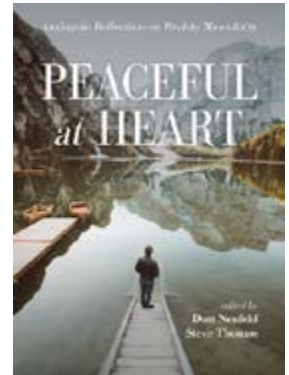


and serving their local community. The goal as a congregation is to celebrate their 10th anniversary as a gathered community with the opening of their newly renovated worship space in March 2021. We celebrate with them on the occasion of this wonderful milestone!

A further gift has been designated for the **Mission Anabaptist Church** in Myanmar, a mission partner of MCEC and MC Canada. This grant is awaiting resolution of COVID restrictions prior to being distributed.

### Promoting Healthy Masculinity with JoinMen

We continue to have positive responses to our book ***Peaceful at Heart: Anabaptist Reflections on Healthy Masculinity***, published with the Institute of Mennonite Studies in 2019. The Ontario office of Mennonite Central Committee has initiated the publication of a study guide for this book (available free online) and a video series of author interviews is under development to help support healthy masculinity. A Kindle version is also now available through online distributors, and an audio book will soon be released.



### Restoring God's Earth with JoinTrees

In 2020 we launched our JoinTrees initiative with the goal to plant one million trees by 2030 to help restore the earth. Targeting the problem of climate change with its harmful impacts on God's creation and people, we invite people of all ages and genders to participate in this campaign. We're working with households, congregations and Mennonite organizations for this creation care practice. We're planning now for planting projects in 2021. Visit **[www.MennoniteMen.org/JoinTrees](http://www.MennoniteMen.org/JoinTrees)** for more information on how to participate. Consider supporting JoinTrees with your contribution.

To learn more, support our work with your donations, download resources for supporting the spiritual well-being of men, or to schedule a speaker or retreat, visit **[www.MennoniteMen.org](http://www.MennoniteMen.org)**.

Wishing you peace,

Don Neufeld  
Coordinator for Canada  
[don.neufeld@outlook.com](mailto:don.neufeld@outlook.com)  
905-650-1577



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# Inter-Mennonite Chaplaincy Association

Inter-Mennonite Chaplaincy Association (IMCA) provides an Anabaptist presence and chaplain for students, faculty and staff at the University of Manitoba Fort Garry campus. This campus ministry is a partnership of three Mennonite conferences (EMC, EMMC, and MCM).

Historically, IMCA has operated out of a space in the University Centre known by students as the “Menno Office”. Here, students from various backgrounds and at different places on their own faith journey have gathered to find connection, support and guidance to help them process their day to day learning and experiences within a Christian faith context. Much of this has happened spontaneously as students interact in the office. Designated times have also been set aside for topical discussions, devotional reflection, and times of caring, prayer and worship. Students have benefitted not only from the peer support they’ve experienced from one another, but also from knowing they have someone they can talk to one-on-one.

This has been a year of challenges and adjustments for IMCA. On March 13th the Menno Office space suffered extensive damage from a fire in the University Centre. The next day, students also found out that because of COVID 19, they would have to complete their academic year online. Students continued to receive regular Menno Office News emails, and stayed connected on Zoom with weekly gatherings. Individual students also continued to stay in touch and receive pastoral care through direct emails, text,

phone calls, and physical (social distance) meet ups.

In September, we changed our main online meeting platform from Zoom to Discord. Using some photo and video footage of the activities in our office space from just before the fire, we created a promotional video to invite students to join us in the “E Menno Office” on Discord. We also created a website ([mennooffice.ca](http://mennooffice.ca)) with a link to watch the video and to serve as a portal for students to easily access the E Menno Office.

Until we can meet together in person again, I’m grateful to be able to facilitate this online community where students continue to gather for connection, support and spiritual nurture and guidance. It’s a privilege to journey alongside them in these challenging times. One of the silver linings in all of this has been that even students who have moved on to other educational institutions have been able to stay connected with the community that they had been a part of while at U of M.

Many thanks for the prayers and ongoing partnership as we continue to respond creatively and faithfully to the opportunities and challenges at hand.

In Christ

Rev. Mark von Kampen  
Campus Chaplain  
University of Manitoba  
[mvonkampen@gmail.com](mailto:mvonkampen@gmail.com)

# MCCM update 2021 | Report to churches

How does one convey MCC's 100th year in 2020? With a smile, maybe a tear, with prayer... and great thanks!

MCC's centennial year began with great fanfare! The Great Winter Warm-up was the first centennial celebration event. Thousands of volunteers and staff on three continents, on the same day in January doing some of our best stuff – making 9,400+ comforters. More than 3,000 of those made here in Manitoba. How wonderful! And how sad that we have not gathered in large groups since then?

We have found other ways to celebrate and support vulnerable people in Manitoba and around the world. GO! 100 was an activity-based celebration this summer. Folks cycled, hiked, read, did crosswords, delivered art and other activities they love. Friends were encouraged to donate. Almost \$50,000 was raised this way in Manitoba. Thank you!

With you in the church, MCC Manitoba is finding ways to carry on ministries remotely and in small, safe, in-person activities. Together, we are supporting newcomer families, and congregations and victim-survivors of intimate partner abuse, we're creating healing, learning and relationship building spaces with Indigenous peoples like the Healing Forest in Winnipeg and supporting the Indigenous Fellowship Centre in Kenora, we're providing employment training for youth and young adults at Sam's Place and partnering with Manitoba faith and community organizations in advocacy for safe and sustainable neighbourhoods.

Like you in the church, COVID-19 has had dramatic effect on MCC. The pandemic has forced restructuring of budgets in the current year. International program is reduced by 25%, some administrative offices and country programs have been consolidated as in Africa and Latin America. Some country programs have closed completely, as in Vietnam.

MCC Manitoba has sustained most of its programs, though International Volunteer Exchange Program (IVEP) is paused. Provincially, expenses are reduced by 38% in Manitoba, achieved by generous support of churches and individuals, as well as pauses to expenses like travel and professional development. Staff gave up as much as 20% of their salary for a portion of the year, while federal wage subsidy covered a portion as well.

Enormous thanks are due to MCC Thrift in Manitoba for perseverance in this local-global ministry! The pandemic closed thrift shops last spring and again in fall, though are now open with reduced hours and volunteer force. Throughout it all, they continue to care for neighbourhoods in the goods sold, and for volunteers and shoppers in how they operate, and for vulnerable people around the world in the funds provided for international programs.

Thanks be to God to you in the church for your care and compassion for local and global neighbours.



**DARRYL LOEWEN**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MCC MANITOBA  
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**Volunteers with MCC Manitoba sewed handmade masks for newcomer families who were sponsored by church and community groups through MCC. They were distributed by staff at a safe distance last spring. (MCC photo/Maysoun Darweesh)**



**From left, Susie Harder, Mary Martens, Alvie Martens, Elenore Dyck and Lois Janzen stand in front of rows and rows of comforters they completed as part of The Great Winter Warm-up last January. Together, area churches in Steinbach completed 435 blankets in one day, contributing to more than 3,000 total collected in Manitoba. The Great Winter Warm-up kicked off centennial celebrations for MCC last year. (Photo provided by Lois Janzen)**

Read the full report online at [mccmb.ca/annual-impact-report-2020](https://mccmb.ca/annual-impact-report-2020) or request a print copy by contacting [SimoneThiessen@mccmb.ca](mailto:SimoneThiessen@mccmb.ca).



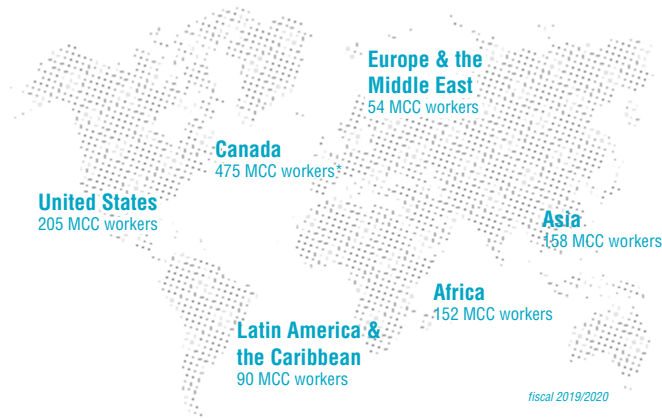


**Mennonite  
Central  
Committee**

**2020**

**MANITOBA**

# YEAR AT A GLANCE



## INTERNATIONAL

**51** countries  
**511** partners  
**619** projects  
**1,134** workers

Global Service and Learning participants

YAMEN	33
IVEP	24
SALT	39
Seed	13
Summerbridge	14
SOOP	45

## COVID-19 RESPONSE



1,899 individual health staff and volunteers provided with personal protective equipment for COVID-19 prevention

109,849 people received emergency food assistance

11,400 people in Chad received hygiene supplies and access to safe drinking water in efforts to cushion the spread of COVID-19

200 Syrian and Palestinian child refugees received psychosocial support in Lebanon

## MANITOBA PROGRAMS



### MATERIAL RESOURCES

Relief aid shipped from our Manitoba Material Resources Centres included:

- 5,598 comforters
- 430 relief kits
- 440 hygiene kits
- 2,540 school kits

### MIGRATION & RESETTLEMENT

- 124 refugees sponsored

### ABUSE RESPONSE AND PREVENTION

- 2 new domestic abuse support groups were formed, including a Low German speaking support group

### PEACE AND ADVOCACY

- 12 peacebuilding and advocacy presentations and engagement events, including Palestine Land Exercises

### INDIGENOUS NEIGHBOURS

In response to the pandemic, MCC provided grants to North Point Douglas Women's Centre for a Family Tree Parenting program

Another grant was provided to the Indigenous Fellowship Centre in Kenora for a healthy grieving initiative.



### THREADS

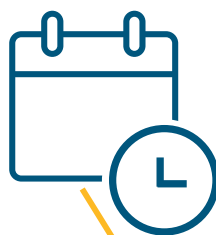
12 episodes of our radio show linking the work of MCC with the stories of people in Manitoba were published online at [mccmb.ca/Threads](http://mccmb.ca/Threads)

## SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

IN A YEAR  
MCC Thrift shops in Manitoba logged more than

**365,000**  
volunteer hours!

That's the same as...



**42 years!**

## EVENTS



Spring Fest, Cycle Clear Lake, the MCC Golf Tournament and the Brandon MCC Relief Sale were cancelled for 2020. Instead, GO! 100 was introduced.



People from across Manitoba came up with fun challenges they could do 100 of -running, biking, sewing, climbing- in support of MCC's centennial! Together, they raised more than \$50,000.

# MENNONITE COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE



**For 131 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.**

2020 was a crucial year as MCI faced multiple challenges at the same time. Successive years of financial deficits raised questions of the school's ongoing viability. Discussions with stakeholders revealed a deep commitment to MCI's mission and core values: Service Learning, Peace Building, Community & Belonging, Servant Leadership.

**We thank God for many signs of hope as we face the future.**

Donor support increased substantially in the past year, and the school posted a modest surplus for the first time since 2016. Student enrolment in September 2020 was up 33% from the year before. We have been able to retain and attract staff who are both deeply committed and highly capable.

The COVID-19 pandemic posed many challenges for MCI, as it did for every other ministry in our province. In a situation quite unlike any we had encountered before, we relied heavily on God's grace and sought inventive approaches to achieve our mission.

Our spacious campus and relatively small student population allowed us to continue to offer a more personal educational experience.

Well before the pandemic, MCI had been utilizing Google Classroom as an educational platform. The transition to online learning was much easier as a result. This fall MCI implemented W.I.L.D. Wednesdays (*Weekly Independent Learning & Discipleship*) into the regular schedule. These days are designed to cultivate the skills students require to thrive during remote learning and in the post-secondary world.

Unfortunately, Gerald Barkman, who began as principal in August 2019, stepped down in March 2020 due to health concerns. The Board appointed Harold Schlegel to lead the school as Executive Director. He works closely with Toby Wiens (*Teaching Principal*), Paul Peters (*Student Life & Recruitment Director*) and Ryan Potter (*Finance & Administration Director*).

**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 Disaster Service Canada REPORT



## A great encouragement to our congregation and a catalyst for ministry..."

That's what Rob Patterson, pastor of the Scott St. Mennonite Brethren Church in St. Catharines, Ont. said about what a grant from the Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) Canada Spirit of MDS Fund meant to his church during the pandemic.

The church used the funds to provide about 500 meals for nearby families experiencing food insecurity because of COVID-19. "The grant allowed us to get the program up and running, helping with food purchasing and promotion," says Patterson.

He added it "made us feel that we are part of the larger Mennonite cause, both in St Catharines and around the world. This kind offer of support from MDS has been a real blessing, and in turn, allowed us to be a blessing to the larger community."

Scott St. was one of 80 congregations or other ministries in Canada that received \$1,000 grants or more from the Fund this year to respond to pandemic needs in their communities.

Due to the pandemic, MDS was unable to do its regular programs of repairing

and rebuilding homes for people impacted by natural disasters in the U.S. and Canada. Through the Fund we could support churches on the frontlines of responding to this huge pandemic disaster—supporting their efforts to be the hands and feet of Jesus in their communities.

Although the pandemic curtailed our regular programs in Canada, and prevented Canadians from going to the U.S. to volunteer, we were able to help flood victims in Fort Vermillion, Alta. clean out their houses, and rebuild one house in 70 Mile House, B.C.—all done following strict health and safety protocols to keep volunteers and members of the community safe.

The Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 13:13:

**"So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three, but the greatest of these is love."**

During this challenging year we experienced God's faithfulness as we brought hope to people struggling because of disaster, showing them the love of Christ that is in our hearts.

—Ross Penner, Director of Canadian Operations



Bob Ratelle does cleanup in the kitchen at Scott Street Church in St. Catharines, Ont., after making meals made possible by support from the MDS Canada Spirit of MDS Fund.

The MDS budget year runs from August 1 to July 31. In 2019-20, **6,048** volunteers from across Canada and the U.S. gave their time, skills and compassion to build **79** new homes, complete **280** repairs, and finish **91** cleanups for households who experienced a disaster. That volunteer labour was valued at **\$13.6** million. In Canada, we finished up a project rebuilding or repairing **15** houses in Grand Forks, B.C.; built or repaired **5** houses in Renfrew, Ont.; and built two new homes following fires in Marquette, Man. and Newfoundland.



**Mennonite  
Disaster  
Service**

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

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[mdscanada@mds.mennonite.net](mailto:mdscanada@mds.mennonite.net)

# Westgate Mennonite Collegiate

As a “related” organization, it is our pleasure to partner with you as individuals and congregations to prepare the next generation to both hear God’s call and to live as people of God. This year we have 305 students enrolled. Our student body is 40% Mennonite with many other Christian denominations and students with no faith connections welcomed into our community.

**COVID-19 Response** Daily operations have changed to incorporate school safety guidelines. Our enrollment and the flexibility offered by our redeveloped campus has permitted us to have all students attend school in person each day. Maintaining two metre distance between masked classmates often requires a portion of a given class to move to an adjacent space such as a mezzanine or the atrium to follow instruction via live stream on a laptop. Students who are unable to attend in person are able to learn virtually while classes are in session as well. Much thanks goes to the building maintenance staff who conduct the hourly task of sanitizing the building’s surfaces.

Unfortunately, many aspects of our music program needed to adapt as singing and playing wind instruments were not permitted by mid-October. However, music class continues, and percussion and string instruments can be heard most of the day through the building. Dramas and plays will be offered remotely for viewers to see and hear online. It is yet to be determined if some intra-school athletics will be permitted, but the gym continues to be used by students throughout the day.

**Nurturing Faith** Our Chapel theme this year recognizes that we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. Wit-



nesses, both historic and present day, can help us persevere on the path set before us, a path of faith and participation in the life-giving work of Christ. They remind us that we are not alone; though the lives of these witnesses are different from ours, their faith can become our faith.



**Spiritual Emphasis Week** This year’s theme, “Spiritual Resilience,” was presented virtually during the first block each day to homeroom classes October 13-16. After hearing the recorded speakers and music, students responded with activities and practices intended to foster resilience as taught in Isaiah 40.



**Prayer Request** In these days we invite you to pray for strength, resilience and wisdom as we guide young people through these remaining months of the pandemic

restrictions.

Submitted by:

Paul Klassen – Board Chairperson (First Mennonite Church)

Bob Hummelt – Principal (Sargent Avenue Mennonite Church)



[@westgatewinnipeg](https://www.instagram.com/westgatewinnipeg)



[@westgatemennonite](https://www.facebook.com/westgatemennonite)



[Westgate Mennonite Collegiate](https://www.youtube.com/WestgateMennoniteCollegiate)



[www.westgatemennonite.ca](http://www.westgatemennonite.ca)

# Listing of MCM Staff and Board of Directors

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## Camp Assiniboia

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Jake Fehr, *Maintenance*,

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Paul Dueck, *General Assistant*

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James Friesen, *South (completing term)*

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Evelyn Rempel Petkau, *South*

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# MCM Staff Photo Directory



Zachary Entz  
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Naomi Ewert  
*Administrative Assistant*



Dorothy Fontaine  
*Director of Mission*



Elisabeth Franz-Warkentin  
*CwM Admin Assistant*



Kathy Giesbrecht  
*Assoc. Dir. of Leadership Ministries*



Rick Neufeld  
*Dir. of Leadership Ministries*



Darryl Neustaedter Barg  
*Assoc. Dir. of Communications*



Michael Pahl  
*Executive Minister*



Janet Peters  
*CwM Assoc. Program Director*



# 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



Cheryl Braun



James Friesen



Gerald Gerbrandt



Isaac Hildebrand Schlegel



Richard Klassen



Karen Tiessen



Kathleen Rempel Boschman



Evelyn Rempel Petkau

# Clusters of MCM 2020

## Eastern

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

## West/North

Grace Mennonite Church, Brandon  
Nordheim Mennonite Church  
Oak Lake Mennonite Church  
Prairie Mennonite Fellowship  
(Merger of Trinity Mather and Crystal City)  
Whitewater Mennonite Church  
Living Word Church

## 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