

**2021 Report Book  
Volume 64**

**MCM Gathering 2022**

# **Mennonite Church Manitoba**

**March 5, 2022**

**Online via Zoom**

# Online via Zoom

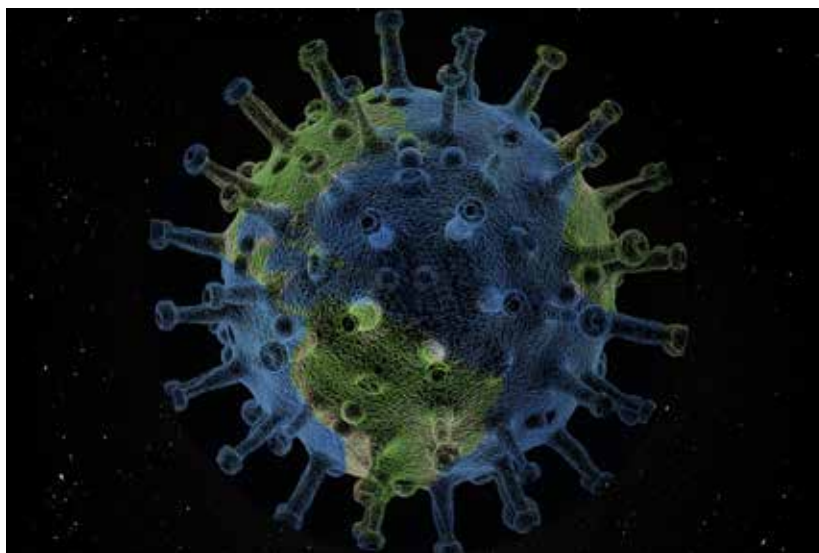
2020-2022 will be remembered as the years where most meetings took place on Zoom (online web conferencing platform) due to the Covid-19 global pandemic.

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

With the Omicron variant in prevalent spread, despite widespread vaccination, we are hopeful that in-person gathering will take place more widely by summer, and that Gathering 2023 will be in-person again and this space in the Report Book will be about the host congregation.

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

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# 75th Annual Gathering Program

**Saturday, March 5, 2022**

9:00 a.m.	Welcome
9:05 a.m.	Gathering in Worship
9:20 a.m.	Agenda Review and Acceptance of Minutes of 74th Annual Gathering
9:25 a.m.	Affirming 2021 Board Actions
9:30 a.m.	Program Reports
10:10 a.m.	Reports on Finances 2021 and Budget 2022
10:20 a.m.	Breakout Rooms around Program Focuses ◀ Congregational Health, Pastoral Leadership, Local Church Mission, Camps with Meaning, International Witness, MCM Finances
10:50 a.m.	Sharing and Questions from the Zoom Floor
11:00 a.m.	BRUNCH BREAK
11:30 a.m.	Continuing in Worship
11:40 a.m.	Guests and Greetings
11:55 a.m.	Breakout Rooms around Current Issues ◀ Climate Action, Indigenous Solidarity, Palestine-Israel, LGBTQ+ Conversation
12:25 p.m.	Sharing and Questions from the Zoom Floor
12:45 p.m.	Affirming MCM Appointments
12:50 p.m.	Receiving/Approving Financial Report and Budget
1:00 p.m.	Going Out in Worship

# Foreword

Welcome to the Mennonite Church Manitoba report book, looking back at 2021. In this book you will find a representation of the work that our MCM Staff, our MC Canada staff, and the staff of many related organizations provide for our constituency. Of course, there is much more that goes on among us as MCM than is reflected in this book. The vast majority of MCM's work is done among us and through us as congregations seeking to follow Jesus within our communities toward greater faith and hope and love.

As you prepare for the 2022 Gathering being held via Zoom on March 5, please use this report book as your guide to what has happened this past year. The Gathering will focus not as much on the past as it will on understanding what God is doing among us now in order to imagine what God might do among us in the year ahead. 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 exploring our "Shared Life" together at Gathering 2022. I am grateful that our koinonia, our "fellowship" or "shared life," is not dependent on physical presence but is grounded in the "shared life" we have together with God in Christ, united in one Spirit. May we experience this shared life together with God in new ways in the year to come.



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

*We declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. (1 John 1:3)*

The congregation is the foundational unit of the church. This affirmation was a crucial element of the new structure adopted by Mennonite Church Canada and the five Regional Churches in 2017. This affirmation does not diminish the recognition that the church is much larger than the local congregation, and indeed, encompasses the body of Christ worldwide. Conferences like Mennonite Church Manitoba remain an important way for local congregations to connect with each other and the larger church, and to work at missional initiatives too large for one congregation. Nevertheless, mission begins with the local congregation. This is where people worship together, celebrate the Lord's Supper together, support each other, and discern how to reach out to their communities in mission.

The past two years of pandemic have severely impacted how people in local congregations relate to each other and witness beyond themselves. The MCM Board devoted a block of time at its retreat in September, 2021 to reflect on this reality. We were convinced a renewed focus on the local congregation was needed. We thus agreed to launch a 2-year intensive initiative on congregational health, with the first year highlighting congregational and pastoral care and local witness. To give this initiative concrete expression the Board formed a **Congregational Health Committee** to lead this initiative, and gave Kathy Giesbrecht the new role of **Director of Congregational Ministries**. We are also in the midst of a search to replace Rick Neufeld as **Director of Leadership Ministries**.

Congregational health begins with what happens within the congregation, but it cannot stay there. A flourishing congregation naturally and inevitably plays a life-giving role in its immediate community. The MCM Board has also taken some actions to encourage how congregations reach out beyond themselves. There are now four working groups in MCM set up to support the church's mission, one bringing together women in MCM (**Woven**), one on **Palestine-Israel**, one on **Indigenous Solidarity**, and one still in formation on **Climate Action**. Each works with larger Canadian initiatives in those areas, and each is available to resource and assist congregations in their own thinking and witness. We have also established a position in **Mission Engagement** which Melanie Neufeld will fill on March 1. In this role she will work at resource development for the larger church, but she also has the mandate

to work with local congregations in discerning how they might look beyond themselves, in their local communities but also through International Witness, an important outreach program we do together with the other Regional Churches as Mennonite Church Canada. Despite the pandemic having severely restricted what our **Camps with Meaning** program could do during these past two years, it remains a key program of MCM, both for resourcing the local congregation and for reaching out beyond ourselves.

Working together in this way is only possible through the generosity of the MCM congregations and members. When we presented our financial statements a year ago, along with financial projections for 2021, we were very concerned. Indeed, we presented a budget with a significant deficit, due largely to an anticipated shortfall in the camping program finances. We are so pleased to report that this did not happen. Generous designated donations to Camps with Meaning, along with grants from government and the Winnipeg Foundation, resulted in us ending 2021 in the black (see financial reports for more details). For this we thank you, the God whom we serve, and a dedicated and knowledgeable staff with Michael Pahl as Executive Minister. We now look forward to a 2022 which we pray will be more normal, one in which MCM congregations will grow as "communities of grace, joy and peace so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world." (taken from the Mennonite Church Canada Vision Statement).

Gerald  
Gerbrandt  
*Moderator*





# Executive Minister's Report

In 1 John 1:3, the author speaks of our *koinonia*—our “fellowship,” or, as our theme puts it, our “shared life.” *Koinonia* is about holding the most important things in common—the good news of Jesus, our relationship with God, our life in the Spirit. It’s about sharing in worship, sharing broken bread around open tables, sharing gifts and resources, sharing in service for the good of each other, the good of all.

In my first year as Executive Minister, I have experienced this “**shared life**” among us as **Mennonite Church Manitoba**. I work with a talented and committed group of staff who seek to support our congregations and guide our regional ministries. I serve alongside a dedicated Board and MCM committees who bring their gifts from each of their congregations to serve the wider church. I have had the joy of connecting with all of our active pastors in one way or another, seeing their dedication to their ministry and their care for our congregations. I have had the privilege of visiting nearly 20 of our congregations to share in worship, to share in resourcing, to share what God is doing among us. I have experienced our shared life together in the ministry of our Faith and Life Choirs even during a pandemic, and in the faithful service of two colleagues who will be leaving us this year: Rick Neufeld and David Hogue.

I have also experienced this “**shared life**” with our wider **church body**, both nationwide as Mennonite Church Canada and beyond our borders with other national churches and organizations. It is an honour to work with my Executive Minister colleagues across our five regional churches, collaborating together with MC Canada EM Doug Klassen and the MC Canada Joint Council to carry out our shared ministry as congregations across Canada and around the world.

All this “shared life,” and the work that is a part of it, is reflected in this report book. Let me highlight a few areas of special attention for me in my role as Executive Minister.

During 2021 we put some energy into **re-focusing our major program areas**. This was not a planned review; rather it was prompted by changing circumstances. Nevertheless, I am pleased with where this has led us. We now have four main program areas:

- Leadership Ministries, focused on supporting our spiritual leaders and particularly our pastors;
- Congregational Ministries, focused on supporting the internal life of our congregations (worship, faith formation, care ministries, and so on);

- Mission Ministries, focused on supporting the external ministries of our congregations, especially locally but also beyond their communities; and
- Camps with Meaning, our shared camping and retreat ministries.

Related to this are some shifts in staff positions. Rick Neufeld remains as Director of Leadership Ministries, though his impending retirement will bring a new person into this role. Kathy Giesbrecht is now the Director of Congregational Ministries, and Dorothy Fontaine is the Director of Camps with Meaning. We will welcome Melanie Neufeld into the Director of Mission Engagement role as of March 1.

Our MCM website has undergone some changes, in part to better reflect this program re-focusing and to clarify contacts and provide resourcing in these program areas. If you are ever in doubt about who to contact about what, though, just contact any of us and we will get you to the right people for your question!

Complementing this re-focusing of our major program areas has been a **renewal of MCM committees and working groups**. This is part of an initiative to do the work of the regional church together—neither simply paid staff nor entirely relying on volunteers, but intentionally bringing staff and congregation members together to do the work of the church. As the Ministerial Leadership Committee supports the work of the Director of Leadership Ministries in supporting pastors and other spiritual leaders among us, so the new Congregational Health Committee works with the Director of Congregational Ministries to support congregations toward their flourishing. A new working group has been formed in partnership with MCC Manitoba—the Manitoba Mennonite Coalition for Indigenous Solidarity—to help resource and mobilize congregations for this important work. A similar working group is forming related to climate action.

In 2021 we returned to the calls of previous years to listen to one another around **LGBTQ+ recognition and inclusion**. I met with our pastors in spring 2021, meetings which included hearing from them regarding where our congregations were at in this matter. This prepared the way for a “listening circle” in October, where MCM congregations were invited to send two representatives to share their congregation’s discernment over the past few years around this matter. A listening committee attended that circle and produced a report and recommendations to the Board.

These were received and approved by the Board, and the report will be available for delegates at our Gathering.

Another area of attention was our **regional church finances**. A Finance Committee was established to provide support for the Board and me as we oversee and make decisions related to financial matters. One key recommendation, approved by the Board, was to streamline existing funds and accounts—including several which had been inactive for years—and move our reserve and capital funds to Abundance to gain a greater return on these larger, longer-term funds.

We also spent some time **clarifying our relationships with our member congregations**. Sadly, we determined in this process that Iglesia Jesús es el Camino is no longer operating. A current list of full and affiliate member congregations can be found in this year's report book. I encourage congregations to submit current constitutions and report books to our office. This is not a requirement of MCM membership, but it does help us understand the unique dynamics of each congregation so that we can serve you better.

This is our desire as MCM staff: to facilitate our “shared life” together, our *koinonia* as a regional church body. We are here to serve you, our member congregations, to help us hold the most important things in common as a regional and nationwide church—the good news of Jesus, our relationship with God, our life in the Spirit. May we continue sharing together in worship, sharing broken bread together around open tables, sharing gifts and resources together, sharing together in service for the good of each other and the good of all.

Michael  
Pahl  
*Executive Minister*



# Camps with Meaning

The theme for our 2022 Annual Gathering, “Shared Life: Together with God,” is based on 1 John 1:3. In this passage, the writer makes an insightful connection between sharing what we witness through the life, teachings, and on-going presence of Jesus, to the strength of our “shared life” together with God.

At Camps with Meaning, bearing witness to the gospel and the on-going work of the Spirit occurs frequently and naturally. Campers share their experiences of Christ throughout the day; be it around a campfire, a conversation along forest trails, Bible lessons and devotions, worship, or the music that we write and sing together. This, in large part, is why camp has been formative for generation after generation of campers. Camp is where the gospel of Christ and our encounters with Him come together. In the sharing of these experiences, strong hope-filled communities are born, the “church” is born, and faith comes alive!

Over the last two years, the pandemic has, without question, changed our programs in both scope and size, but it hasn’t changed our encounters and experiences of Christ. For this, we are grateful and encouraged. No matter the circumstance, the Spirit continues to move amongst us, nurturing our shared life together, connecting in and through Christ with all our relations.

## Impact of COVID 19

While restrictions eased in many industry sectors, they did not change, at least in any measurable way, for the Manitoba camping industry. As a result, our capacity sizes were significantly smaller in 2021. Specifically, the summer camp program operated at approximately 25% of normal capacity, our Leadership Training program at 50% capacity, and our guest rental program at less than 15% capacity. This not only presents financial challenges for us, but as the pandemic draws out, it increasingly impacts the relationships that we have with campers, staff (summer and year-round), volunteers, and guests. This is significant, because Camps with Meaning is founded on relationships. Many of our staff and volunteers were once campers, then counselors, then leadership staff, then volunteers. Maintaining and reestablishing those relationships is therefore key moving forward. Our staff are working hard to connect in various ways with existing guest groups, summer staff, campers and volunteers.

One of the most remarkable stories of 2021 relates to the financial support that we have received. Last year, we projected that Camps with Meaning would have a financial loss of between \$30,000 – \$100,000 but it appears that we will have a small surplus! This, in large part, is due to three things:

- The generosity of donors who gave consistently and generously throughout the year and to a new fundraising campaign, Ring up the Cash, that we launched in the spring of 2021.
- We received two significant grants amounting to \$60,000 through The Winnipeg Foundation.
- The wage subsidy program through the Government of Canada.

We are also encouraged by the large number of guest groups who continue to express interest in returning to camp once restrictions allow them to, and the strong showing of volunteers who have so generously donated their time throughout the year when restrictions allowed.

## Recovery Plan & Capital Campaign

In anticipating that the pandemic will shift to being endemic in 2022, we have developed, and hope to implement, a recovery plan. The plan is two-fold, focusing on:

- Strengthening and rebuilding relationships with campers, staff, and guests, and connecting with new campers and staff through events, a new marketing and engagement plan, and new marketing materials.
- Moving forward with our capital campaign, which was originally set to launch in the spring of 2020 but was postponed due to the pandemic.

The capital campaign, which was approved at the AGM in 2020, is a key part of the on-going strategic plan and vision for Camps with Meaning that was first introduced in 2015. Although minor changes to the plans are forthcoming as we take into consideration the impacts of the pandemic, the key projects will remain the same. If you would like to review the 2020 Strategic plan, it can be found here (<https://bit.ly/CWMPlan>).

The development plans will not only allow us to move ahead with new year-round programs for Camps with Meaning but they will likely generate an annual revenue surplus of over \$90,000 after the direct cost of additional staffing and operations are taken into account.

In the coming months, the Fundraising Team and Camp Committee will be fine-tuning capital campaign plans. We look forward to sharing more information with you as these plans are finalized.

Dorothy Fontaine  
*Director of Mission*



## Camp Koinonia

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Camp Koinonia like all organizations was great affected by the pandemic throughout 2021. We have mostly operated at either capacity limits or vaccinated only status. While some groups appreciated this government requirement others were required to cancel their bookings. The Main lodge has been very slow compared to pre pandemic occupancy rates, while the Mini Lodge has continued to be very busy.

Some of the highlights of 2021 for was the completion of the Main Lodge basement, this cozy in the winter and cool in the summer space will be a great addition for all to enjoy. We also received a Hometown Greenteam grant to hire summer help from May-September, we thank Brianna Wiebe for taking on that position and for all the work that she did this past summer. Camp Koinonia was also granted a Building Sustainable Communities grant this year, this was for a safety and accessibility upgrade grant. With this 50/50 grant from the province, we were able to install a new fire alarm system, upgrade all emergency

lightening to LED and install 3 new exit doors in the main lodge. We are very happy to say that the main doors of the lodge are now handicapped accessible.

Camp Koinonia was thrilled to host Camps with Meaning for a week of day camps in July and look forward to working with Camps with Meaning again 2022.

Thanks in huge part to our volunteers over the past year we were able to accomplish many things, including 21 people helping out with our woodcutters retreat in October, all of your help does not go unnoticed. Thank you also to Evan Laramee and Meara Sparling for all their hard work maintaining the camp, the place has never looked better!

We are open so check out our website for more information at [www.campkoino.ca](http://www.campkoino.ca)

Camp Koinonia Inc. Board

# Camp Assiniboia

As I look back on 2021 the phrase “Not again!” comes to mind. Zoom, pivot, disappointment, worry, and hope are words that would easily find their way into a more detailed summary of last year here at Camp Assiniboia. Despite a

very quiet rental season and another abbreviated Bible Camp program, the care and maintenance of our camp kept me quite busy. In May, our Head of Maintenance, Jake Fehr, had to leave his position suddenly and we have not found a replacement for him yet.

Despite Covid and being short staffed for most of the year, we did manage to make some important improvements to the facility. As always is the case this was only accomplished with the help of a group of dedicated volunteers. We are very thankful for all of them. Here are the highlights of 2021 projects.

**The garden shelter.** We were given a small shed by Bethel Place in the fall of 2020. This summer we moved it in the garden and added wings on either side of it. One side is a shelter to allow camper to get out of the sun (or rain) and the other side will become produce washing station and temporary storage area. The center room houses the water, electrical and communication equipment as well as the compressor used to aerate the lake.

**Lake development.** From the garden shelter we laid underground water, power and air lines to a spot near the lake. Change rooms and washrooms will be built on that spot in 2022. The air line continues underground to the manifold that send air to the aeration diffusers. The system keeps our

lake water clean enough for swimming. We also purchased a large pump that we will use to keep the water level up in dry years. We began building a road that runs along the west side of the lake. Once completed it will connect to the

“loop” trail in the forest. Finally one of our volunteers converted an old tent trailer into a kayak trailer. We can carry store and lock up to 10 kayaks.

**Mini Conference Center.** Last year (2020) we began a renovation of the Mini Conference. We divided each of the 2 large sleeping areas into a small bedroom and a main sleeping area (big enough for 4 bunkbeds). This year we painted and installed new flooring throughout the building. To complete the reno we would like to add a serving kitchen so that groups of 15 to 20 can be self contained for retreats or gatherings.

As we did in 2020 this year we have tried to prepare our Camp for the time when things get back to some kind of normal. Hopefully that will be in 2022.

Finally, I want to mention that by April 30th I will be retiring as Site Manager. Katherine retired from her work at camp a few years ago. When the two of us started here in 2008

we saw so much beauty in this “Cottonwood Cathedral”. We have sought ways to frame that beauty so that all who come here are able to see and experience it too. Our prayer is that the vision for this place will be carried forward by those who follow us.

David Hogue



Mini-Conference Centre Reno





# Summer Program Report

## Bible Curriculum and Theme Song

Our Bible curriculum for summer 2021 was titled “We can be Heroes.” Written by Elizabeth Wipf, the focus Scripture text came from Hebrews 12:1-2a: “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith.” The daily lessons focused on how we can be everyday heroes of love, healing, faith, hope, and well-being. Each day we learned about everyday heroes from the Bible, history, and today, as our cloud of witnesses. Our Pop-up Camps incorporated 2 lessons during the day, focusing on love and joy.

There were no new songs written again this year, as things looked very uncertain this spring. We were, however, able to sing together – spaced out and masked and outdoors – which was a true blessing for our campers and staff!

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

## Summer Program

This summer was again much different from the normal routine. We were able to offer three one-day Pop-up camps for our ADV campers in July – only a few campers took advantage, but those that came had a great time worship-

ping, playing carnival and water games, and just being at camp together. We then ran a mixture of day camps and Pop-Up camps throughout July and August, including a full week at Koinonia and an extended day camp for grades 9-12.



Our Pop-up camps ran for one day in locations around the province, in Morden, Steinbach, Winnipeg and at Assiniboia. The day included 2 Bible lessons, crafts, activities and games. We are very grateful to the churches who hosted us – Morden Mennonite, Grace Mennonite, and Bethel Mennonite. These were again a valuable and meaningful way to connect with our supporting churches.

We had a total of 50 campers attend a Pop-Up Camp – a smaller number than last year, but there were more options out there, and our day camps were a stronger draw as well. We also hosted 149 campers at 4 weeks of day camp at Camp Assiniboia and 30 at our Koinonia week. Full days

were planned and we were able to include all of our activities again this summer – with campers and staff wearing masks at the ropes course, and opportunities to swim at both sites as well.



The Lake at Camp Assiniboia

We were able to connect with almost 250 campers, although we really did miss the rhythm and space of the overnight program. The long, jam-packed days felt more exhausting, even with evenings to relax a little –

distancing protocols added to the drain on staff energy as well. A regular summer is being planned for 2022, recognizing that we do not know where the pandemic will be at or what restrictions will be required. All is still held loosely, but with a good dose of hope!

Our two camps continue to work toward the future. Koinonia hosted 21 people at its fall Woodcutters' Retreat, and continues to upgrade the facilities. New emergency exit doors are on their way to being installed. Evan and Meara continue to live on-site, taking care of the facilities and guest groups. Assiniboia has completed renovations to the Mini-Conference Centre, and has hired Lauren Gervais as Food Service Coordinator. Plans are in the works to move the ropes course inside the levee, and to add change houses and storage to the lake area.

### 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.

By May, the restrictions in place forced us to cancel our Birding Retreat. Our "Fall" Staff Retreat shifted to a one-day event on November 27 – many of our summer staff took advantage of the beautiful winter day. Skiing, sledding and sticks in the snow, as well as games and puzzles and worship inside made for a great fellowship event.

At this point we foresee not being able to run the ADV retreat this February, but are hopeful that other retreats might be possible in May and in the fall. Plans for the Birding Retreat have begun.

### Staff and Volunteers

This past summer we had a total of 61 staff and volunteers working with us to make this adjusted summer camp



On the wall at Camp Koinonia

## The following is the 2021 Leadership Staff:

Summer Program Directors: Katie Wilson & Nicholas Harder

Bible Instructor: Johanna Klassen

Nature Instructor: Scott Warkentin

Farm Coordinator: Trey Dornn

Integration Coordinator: Carrie Schulz

Servant-Leader-in-Training Directors: Claudia Dueck & Dylan Peters

Teen Volunteer Director: Mackenzie Nicolle

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 a smaller group of 9 strong leaders 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

We began this past year eagerly optimistic that our lives would resume to a long-awaited normalcy. I believe that we were cautiously hopeful for a positive outlook for the new year. However, the truth was that any hopes of a return to the “old” routines and patterns was a mere distant memory. Instead, we learned to pivot and adapt to our circumstances. We adjusted to new forms of worship and gathering. We became accustomed to new ways of living and being. We grew to be a more resilient people. I express words of thanks to the congregations and ministers for navigating well in the midst of another difficult year of pandemic. This has been hard on our mental and emotional well-being. The cries of lament from this past year are evident. We entrust our lives to the One who is our Hope and Strength.

Pastors of MCM have appreciated the continued support that is shared with one another through intentional in-person and virtual meetings on a monthly basis. Pastors have developed deep friendships among colleagues and meetings have provided opportunities to voice frustrations,

disappointments and failures. Alongside, have come occasions of blessing, growth and prayer for one another. **The work of ministry has been enriched through our shared work and life.**

MCM is blessed with gifted pastors and leaders who serve the 38 MCM congregations across our region. My work includes conversations with Pastors who are discerning their own future around vocational aspirations and context. Encouragement, resourcing and support are key essential elements that MCM can provide to our Pastors. MCM also provides support to congregational search committees. MCM's Leadership ministries offers guidance through the search process and works with churches to help discern their pastoral needs going forward. The list below offers an overview of the pastoral/congregational transitions that have taken place in 2021. I have listed interim positions as well but have not included the specific date for ending. Some of the interim positions end earlier and others later than originally agreed upon.

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## MCM PASTORAL PLACEMENTS:

(Congregation)	(Name)	(Position)	(Start Date)
Charleswood Mennonite	Lisa Enns	Co-Pastor	January 1
Morden Mennonite	Ben Pauls	Interim Pastor	January 1
Emmanuel Mennonite	Karen Schellenberg	Intentional Interim	April 1
Douglas Mennonite	James Schellenberg	Interim Associate Pastor	May 1
Arnaud Mennonite	John Klassen	Intentional Interim	May 1
Morden Mennonite	Justin Majeau	Lead Pastor	July 1
First Mennonite	David Driedger	Interim Pastor	August 1
Springfield Heights Menn.	Ben Pauls	Intentional Interim	August 15
Elim Mennonite (Grunthal)	Norm Voth	Intentional Interim	September 1
River East Mennonite	Brian Wiebe	Pastor	September 1
Springfield Heights Menn.	Tobian Penner	Children & Youth Pastor	September 1
Carman Mennonite	Rudy Franz	Intentional Interim	November 1

## CONCLUDING ASSIGNMENTS:

(Congregation)	(Name)	(Position)	(End Date)
Emmanuel Mennonite	John Klassen	Pastor	March 31
Douglas Mennonite	Adam Robinson	Associate Pastor	April 30
Arnaud Mennonite	Gloria Beck	Pastor	April 30
Morden Mennonite	Ben Pauls	Interim Pastor	June 15
Elim Mennonite (Grunthal)	Harold Peters-Fransen	Pastor	June 30(retire)
Springfield Heights Menn.	Rafael Doerksen	Lead Pastor	Jun 30
First Mennonite	Kathy Koop	Lead Pastor	July 31(retire)
Carman Mennonite	Rachel Siemens	Pastor	July 31
River East Mennonite	Ewald Goetz	Pastor	August 31
Douglas Mennonite	James Schellenberg	Interim Associate Pastor	December 31
Bethel Mennonite	Darrel Toews	Lead Pastor	Dec 31 (retire)

“The Very” **Rev. Kathy Giesbrecht** concluded her role as Associate Director of Leadership Ministries on September 30. Kathy has served in this role for many years. Her strong influence and care for youth pastors, new pastors, youth and young adults is evident throughout the church. It has been an honour to share in this ministry work together. I want to say thank you for the gifts of wise discernment, vivacious laughter, spiritual mentoring and consistently fervent Anabaptist teaching. I pray for God’s continued care as you transition to your new ministry role in MCM.

MCM Leadership Ministries is involved in the credentialing of all Pastors. MCM offers three types of credentials – Licensing toward Ordination, Ordination and Licensing for Specific Ministry. Each of these credentials involve a similar process and fulfill a different purpose. The particulars are found in a “Shared Understanding of Ministerial Leadership: A Polity Manual for Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church USA.” The approval and granting of credentials lies with the Ministerial Leadership Committee of MCM. The members are listed at the back of the report book.

### CREDENTIALING ACTIVITY:

(Congregation)	(Name)	(Credential)	(Service Date)
First Mennonite	Erika Enns-Rodine	Ordination	May 23
Elim Mennonite	David Wiens	License for Specific Ministry	June 20
Hope Mennonite	Laura Funk	Ordination	June 27
Vietnamese Mennonite	Hoa Van Chau	Ordination	September 5
Steinbach Mennonite	Lee Hiebert	Ordination	September 26
Fort Garry Mennonite	Taysa Dueck	Commissioned for Lay Ministry	October 3
Fellowship	Jonathan Bonk	Commissioned for Lay Ministry	October 3
Bethel Mennonite	Kathy McCamis	Ordination	October 17
Sargent Ave. Mennonite	Andrea DeAvila	Ordination	October 31
Altona Bergthaler Menn.	Josh Janzen	License toward Ordination	December 12
Morden Mennonite	Michael Pahl	Ordination	TBD

All credentialed leaders are required to receive healthy boundary training and education. **Jaymie Friesen and Val Hiebert of MCC Manitoba Sexual Abuse Prevention Program coordinators** led two sessions in the month of May for pastors of MCM and MC SK on the issues of power, trust and accountability as leaders within the congregation. The session was attended by approximately 45 pastors. Healthy Boundary Training for MCM credentialed leaders is scheduled every two years. Support for pastors throughout their ministry is essential and MCM continues to provide levels of connection and accountability for the health and well-being of both pastor and congregation. Additional levels of support and accountability include monthly cluster gatherings, Youth Ministry Fellowship, mentors (especially for new pastors) and the encouragement of a Spiritual Director.

MCM was blessed to welcome Laura Funk as a **Spiritual Director in Residence**. Laura began in May and will con-

clude her assignment at the end of April this year. This has been a volunteer position on Laura’s suggestion. She has served very well with her gifts and creative energy. I wish to express my deepest thanks for the ways that Laura has connected with Pastors, church groups and congregations in the area of Spiritual Direction. Together with Laura’s home congregation, Hope Mennonite, MCM credentialed Laura in June for this vocational ministry. It was a highlight for me to join in this special service of ordination for Spiritual Direction and MCM’s first of a kind.

### COMMUNITY OF SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP (COSL)

This year MC Canada drew together a Nation-wide group of people from its regional partners. MCM’s representatives were Virginia Gerbrandt-Richert and Rick Neufeld (Regional Church Minister). The purpose is outlined:

**Purpose:** The Community of Spiritual Leadership

(COSL) would act as a coordinating body focused on the following tasks within the MC Canada Nationwide Community of Faith:

1. Assist in nurturing a strong Anabaptist identity
2. Discern together on issues facing the church (“attend to matters of shared concern”) including visioning, study, and input for nationwide discernment
3. Mutual encouragement and support for spiritual leaders, including prayer, fellowship and networking
4. Broad-level engagement with issues of leadership development including:
  - a. mentoring of current and emerging leaders
  - b. initiation of programs to call new pastors and leaders
  - c. coordination of leadership training programs and studies
5. Nationwide consideration of issues related to credentialing and mutual accountability
  - a. attend to principles surrounding the covenantal relationship between congregations and leaders
  - b. develop policies, procedures, and resources related to leadership, credentialing, and discipline
  - c. develop competencies for leaders and congregations

MCM invited a number of local leaders to imagine what the implementation of this vision within MCM could entail. The group has met several times and continues to explore ways of fulfilling its purpose. More updates will be coming shortly. I wish to thank this group of passionate leaders for their willingness to engage in this way. They are: **Virginia Gerbrandt-Richert, Laura Funk, Laverne Siemens, Nadya Langelotz, Lee Hiebert and Rick Neufeld.**

Through the Leadership Ministries, MCM is privileged to administer a number of financial bursaries to pastors and church leaders for the primary purpose of continued pastoral education and missional training. We are tremendously grateful for two long-standing funds that provide financial assistance on a yearly basis. This year, the A.G Neufeld and Jake & Dorothy Pauls Bursary Funds gave financial support to Norm Voth and Ben Pauls who received training in the area of Transitional Ministry for congregations. We give thanks for the investment that continues to benefit the church today and for the future.

This is my final report as Director of Leadership Ministries. I have served in this position for the past 6 ½ years. I offer my sincere thanks for the honour that you have given to me to come alongside pastors, leaders and congregations in the work of God’s mission here and beyond. I have been supported by your friendships; enriched by your love; encouraged by your challenges; and blessed through your prayers. May the peace of God bless your lives and may love continue to swell up through all that we hold and share together.

Rick Neufeld  
*Dir. of Leadership  
Ministries*



## Abram G. Neufeld Minister and Missionary Education Fund

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

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

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

\$1250.50 was disbursed in 2021.

Applications received by June, 1 2022, will be considered.

## 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 2022, please contact MCM Leadership Ministries to receive guidelines and an application form.

The Jake and Dorothy Pauls Fund had no applicants in 2021.

Applications received by June 1, 2022 will be considered.

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

Donations are welcome.

## 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 2021, there were no applications received.

If you would like to apply for a Johann Funk loan in 2022, please contact Leadership Ministries.

Applications received by June 1, 2022, will be considered.

# Congregational Ministries

Though we have been separated....**We Did A Lot Together.**

## Assoc. Director of Leadership Ministries/Director of Congregational Ministries

In 2021 our shared life in the Spirit expressed itself in a multitude of ways.

### BRIGHT LIGHTS OF 2021

1) YMF Circle ( including: Youth/Youth Adult/Family/Faith Formation pastors) was alive and well. This Circle of pastors met 2-4 times a month online for: spiritual practice ( Awareness Examen), support, conversations about challenges and opportunities, resourcing, collaboration and celebration. We also were able to squeeze in a Day Retreat at Camp Assiniboia as part of our Sept. initiative: walking forward in Prayer. Together we have shared life: laughter, tears, silence, strong words of encouragement and hope. It is my absolute privilege to accompany these pastors on their ministry journeys. Within this Circle we celebrated two Ordinations: Erika Enns Rodine (FMC) and Andrea De Avila (SAMC)...a Licensing: Josh Janzen (ABC) and a calling to ministry: Tobian Penner (SHMC); Taysa Dueck Commissioned for Lay Ministry (FGMF). Future looking Bright!

2) MCM Youth Lent Worship Services. Gathering each Sunday evening during Lent, we worshipped together from the various corners of MCM. Each week featured contributions from youth and pastors and each week I was awed by the gifts that were shared. The participants of this Lent Worship time also responded to a need for School Kits, we were made aware of by an MCC guest, and together raised over \$2,000.

3) Healthy Masculinity Curriculum. This project is a collaboration with MCC MB, CMU and MCM in response to a need we sensed within our community. How do we offer our young men and women a different perspective from the ones that bombard them from the media waters they swim in? Creating this curriculum is one response. Moses Falco and I were both

part of the development team and MCM also offered our gift of video creation. Darryl Neustaedter Barg is currently working on this as the final phase in the development of this congregational resource.

**Together we have  
shared life: laughter,  
tears, silence,  
strong words of  
encouragement and  
hope.**

4) Woven: Mennonite Women Together experimented with providing Zoom Room space for shared learning and conversation. ( see Woven Report). A highlight for me was participating in this experiment by hosting a number of the Woven Wednesdays.

5) Manitoba Partnerships. We continue to be strong supporters of the Menno Office on the campus of the University of Manitoba. Chaplain Mark Von Kampen, despite all the waves in 2021, continues to reach out and care for students who connect with this ministry. We give thanks to God for him. I, along with a number of MCM pastors continued to connect with and support MCI, Westgate and CMU. I personally was able to make visits to both MCI and Westgate at the beginning of the School Year.

6) National Partnership. MCM has been a strong and initiating partner within Mennonite Church Canada for National Youth and Young Adult ministry. Jeff Friesen is our regional representative on the Amplify! ( National Youth Gathering Aug. 2022) Planning Group. I have been active in working toward a Young Leaders Experience in Edmonton at the National Gathering in July. We are working toward offering an integrated, accompanied experience for young leaders from across the nation wide Church.

7) International Partnership. The MCM Indonesia 2022 group came into being in response to the invitation from Mennonite World Conference to gather in Indonesia. This group of 5, coordinated by Andrea De Aliva, along with our Regional Rep. Andrew Klassen Brown, will participate in both the Global Youth Summit and the Global Assembly. They have been

**Each week featured  
contributions from  
youth and pastors and  
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by the gifts that were  
shared.**

visiting MCM congregations, raising awareness of current MWC ministries and gathering support for their participation this summer.

In partnership with Menno Media, I sit on the Leader Magazine Editorial Committee as the MC Canada rep. This involves regularly discernment of themes, topics and writers. MCM continues to be a strong contributor to both the seasonal worship resources and regular columns.

8) On the Horizon... MCM Youth Online Gatherings (Feb, Mar) planning shared by a number of youth pastors. MCM Youth Gathering in April, A Day in the Forest, planned by YMF Climate Action sub group. A number of MCM youth groups/youth will travel together to Amplfy!, the National Youth Gathering at Camp Valaqua in August.

Then Came the Shift.....I transitioned from Assoc. Director of Leadership Ministries to Director of Congregational Ministries.

Over the last decade the scope of my work has continued to expand in response to the changing needs of our congregations. Requests for resourcing, consulting and support for a variety of congregational ministries reflected the emerging realities and a desire to respond in faithfulness to the new and sometimes challenging days they found themselves in.

The creation of the role of Director of Congregational Ministries is an MCM Board response to provide the support our congregations are expressing a need for. In the Fall, I worked with Don Rempel Boschman ( MCM Board Member) to put together a Congregational Health Committee ( that he will chair) to guide and support this new ministry. The members include: Bruno Dyck, Mark Tiessen Dyck, Lisa Enns, and Dori Zerbe Cornelson. The priorities set for this ministry in 2022/23 are strengthening the congregational ministries of: Pastoral/Congregational Care and Community Ministry. The first initiative in this direction is the Mar. 5 Afternoon of Equipping, focused on Congregational Care.

**I transitioned from  
Assoc. Director of  
Leadership Ministries  
to Director of  
Congregational  
Ministries.**

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





# Faith and Life Choirs



Faith and Life Male Choir - Christmas 2021

Conductor: Ben Pauls Pianist: Loren Hiebert



Faith and Life Women's Chorus - Christmas 2021

Conductor: Janet Brenneman Pianist: Anna Schwarz

The choirs were able to rehearse and prepare for a Christmas 2021 video recording. Enjoy this short Christmas special at [www.mennochurch.mb.ca/flchoirs](http://www.mennochurch.mb.ca/flchoirs).

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

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

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

## Circle of God's People Radio Program



Nadya Langelotz and Claudia Dueck

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

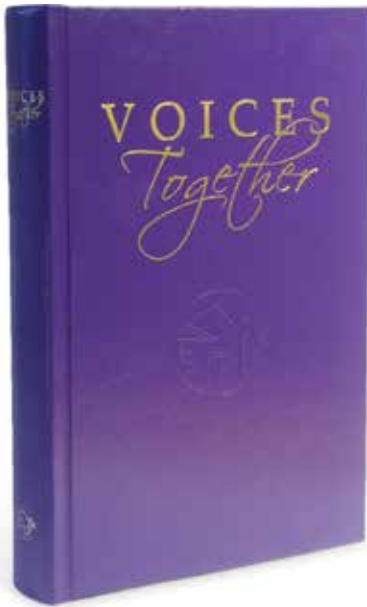
The program is hosted by Nadya Langelotz and Claudia Dueck.

### Broadcasting Times

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

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

## Voices Together Hymnal



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

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

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

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

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



# Working Groups

## Palestine-Israel Network

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

During this year, the 13 active members of the MCMPIN engaged and supported the following education and advocacy initiatives:

- The monthly UPDATE sent out on behalf of MCCPIN. This update included accurate current information on the situation for Palestinians in the West Bank including East Jerusalem, Gaza and within Israel; information on the monthly “Write a Letter” advocacy letter provided by our group (see next item); news from MCCPIN partner Bethlehem Bible College; updates and prayer requests from Canadian Friends of Sabeel (CFOS); items related to Canada’s position on Palestine-Israel; and much more. (To view the current Update go to <https://mailchi.mp/646a2cbae892/sumud-steadfast-persistence?e=60983d4cd7>. To subscribe, use the “subscribe” button.)
- Monthly Write a Letter Wednesday--virtual gatherings to write letters to Canadian government officials or business executives. Some advocacy themes were: e-Parliamentary petitions promoting Palestinian rights; children in Israeli military detention; lifting the blockade on Gaza; stopping the evictions of Palestinians in East Jerusalem; concerns about the linking of Palestinian advocacy with antisemitism; harms caused by business enterprises in the occupied West Bank; and peaceful Olive Harvest;
- MCM’s website included working group updates and announcements at <https://mennochurch.mb.ca/get-involved/Israel-Palestine>
- On June 2, MCMPIN worked with Gaser- a Palestinian and Israel dialogue group, Friends of Rotary and MCC to host a conversation on the Farah Nabulsi’s film, The Present. The film tells the story of difficulties encountered by a father and daughter while traveling in the West Bank, due to the Israeli check point system. Attendance reached 45 people.
- The fall (Sept. 18 & Oct. 2nd) held as promoted,

a two-part webinar series on Christian Zionism: “Whose Land? Whose Promise?” Speakers included Rev. Alex Awad, Rev. Carrie Ballenger (in Jerusalem) Professor Ron Dart and Dr. Dan Epp-Tiessen (CMU) Attendance reached close to 75 participants.

- MCMPIN participated in the ecumenical Canada Stand Up for Palestinian Children’s Rights (CSUF-PCR) campaign: We appointed a representative on the planning committee. Several of us met with MP Leah Gazan to encourage her to support and sign on to a letter urging the Canadian government to appoint a Special Envoy in Palestine to monitor the treatment of Palestinian children in military detention. And many of us took part in an outdoor public witness on Nov. 28th on Portage Avenue, with a turnout of 75 supporters, including those from the Palestinian and Jewish communities. This event was captured by both the Free Press and CBC in news releases with favorable commentary on the mission of the event.
- We endorsed and promoted a number of online events sponsored by fellow advocacy groups. One highlight was the Canadian Friends of Sabeel (CFOS) James Graff Memorial Lecture entitled From Turtle Island to Palestine, on Dec. 2nd. It featured Dr. Rashid Khalidi, author of A Hundred Years War on Palestine: A History of Settler -Colonialism and Resistance, and Alma Brooks, Maleseet grandmother and Indigenous elder.
- Our PIN continues to collaborate with other advocacy groups through on-line meetings, promotion of webinars, and joint meetings with Manitoba MPs. They include Independent Jewish Voices, United Network for a Just Peace in Palestine and Israel (United Church), Mennonite Central Committee, Canadian Friends of Sabeel, local Palestinian associations and others devoted to justice and peace in the Middle East.

In the spirit of Mennonite Church Canada’s Resolution on Palestine and Israel, we continue the work of listening and learning, educating and advocating for just peace. 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 54 year military occupation will end, and everyone living in the land called Palestine and Israel will experience a true and lasting peace.

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

# Woven: Mennonite Women Together

As has been common for Manitobans in this second pandemic year, events better done in person often went online, though our committee did manage two in-person meetings, one in the Carman MC basement and one in the MCM offices. Efforts to connect with our wider constituency remained online, though we hope that can change before long!

We bade a sad committee farewell to Larissa Pahl and Bethany Bunko this fall, and remain grateful for their fine service and continued contact. Our committee currently consists of Tina Fehr Kehler, Kathy Giesbrecht, Heather Hildebrand, Marnie Klassen, Elsie Rempel. We invite interested women from the MCM community to come and add their perspectives and energy to our shared vision and work.

This year, we accomplished several tasks, in addition to enjoying each other.

1. Funding matters: We completed the Anabaptist Women in Leadership Bursary so CMU can offer it to suitable applicants. Unfortunately, no suitable person applied this year. We also committed to pay a portion for the MCM young adults who will be going to Indonesia.

2. We clarified our purpose statement so that it now reads: WOVEN is a community of Mennonite Women, primarily within Mennonite Church Manitoba who,

- a. Listen to the voices and experiences of women
- b. Respond by providing resources for women, through networks of support and idea sharing
- c. Stand in solidarity with Anabaptist Women around the world by providing support and leadership development opportunities

3. This year we addressed women's issues through the following:

- an eight week study on Rachel Held Evans' book, *Inspired*, ably led by Bethany Bunko.
- a series of online events we call Woven Wednesdays. For women of all ages, they provide space for input and exchange, and are guided by the Holy Spirit, our immersion in Scripture and Christian

community. Led by Kathy Giesbrecht and Tina Fehr Kehler, our presenting guests were artists, Margie Hildebrand and Marika Veith who spoke on the relationships between Faith and Art, the Spiritual Director, Lilly Williams, who introduced Mandalas as a spiritual practise, seasoned guides in living through change, Elsie Rempel and Char Epp on the "Merry Maze of Christmas," Finally, our mystic journal keeper, Tina Fehr Kehler, helped us close out the year with "Past (pause), Present (pause), Future (pause)".

- the first issue of a Newsletter: Weaving Women's Words, came out in December of 2021, thanks to the fine editorial work of Heather Hildebrand.
- a statement to welcome gender diverse participation was developed, even while retaining our focus on "women's issues."
- planning to offer a spring retreat on Mental Health, til Omicron reared its nasty crown. At this point we hope to gather women for fellowship and to watch an MWC workshop by Anabaptist Women Theologians together next July. Stay tuned.

4. We did some cleaning at a women's shelter in Winkler, in solidarity with the Jewish community for their November Mitzvah(social action)Day. This was well received and reported on in the Free Press.

Feel free to connect with us at [woven.mcm@gmail.com](mailto:woven.mcm@gmail.com) or through the Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/woven.mcm>

Elsie Rempel, Chairperson



## Manitoba Mennonite Coalition for Indigenous Solidarity

The (Manitoba) Mennonite Coalition for Indigenous Solidarity (MCIS) is a coalition of Manitoba Mennonites committed to the spiritual and practical work of solidarity with Indigenous peoples. The group was formed following the recommendations of an interim advisory group. The MCIS group then began meeting in October 2021 and consists of a dozen members from both rural and urban communities. We recognize that Mennonites have been committed to Indigenous-Settler engagement in a diversity of ways for many years, both under the auspices of Mennonite institutions and on their own accord. The MCIS is rooted in the conviction that we can do even greater work when we come together and organize with intentionality. To that end, the MCIS has been established as a mutual partnership between Mennonite Church Manitoba (MCM) and Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba (MCCM) in order to add collective strength and accountability to the work of these respective institutions.

The Mennonite Coalition for Indigenous Solidarity (MCIS) was formed in response to invitations from Indigenous peoples and communities. Indigenous peoples have been calling all sectors of Canadian society to take concerted, organized action toward reconciliation and right relations. These calls are apparent in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,

the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and the ongoing invitations from local partners and Indigenous nations across Turtle Island. Many of these calls for reparation are specifically addressed to the Church.

The MCIS believes that the work of reconciliation is integral to our Christian faith as Anabaptists. The MCIS draws strength and inspiration from Scripture and from Creator's desire for a reconciled world. For this reason, the MCIS is committed to responding faithfully to Indigenous invitations to faith communities. The MCIS also aims to breathe life into the resolutions that our Mennonite institutions have already passed.

The MCIS will engage with Mennonites across the diversity of our congregations to mobilize for collective action. This includes empowering our respective constituencies through education and dialogue that centers the priorities of Indigenous peoples. The MCIS will also resource churches with practical opportunities to engage the work of Indigenous solidarity and be a receptacle for learnings, ideas, and initiatives that arise from within congregations. MCIS will play this facilitating role in order to build momentum around Indigenous justice concerns, strengthen capacity for church engagement, and encourage bold and collaborative action within the constituency.

## Climate Action Working Group

This group is in the process of formation. Please see the Executive Minister Report.

# 74th Annual Gathering | March 6, 2021

## Online via Zoom

### 1. Welcome- Richard Klassen, Moderator, welcomed all and called the meeting to order 9:03.

- Noted he was filling in for Gerald Gerbrandt
- Acknowledged gathering on the ancestral land of First Nations and Metis people
- Zoom protocols were relayed
- Introductory comments

### 2. Gathering in Worship (video):

- Music provided by Douglas MC, scripture and prayer from Don Rempel Boschmann.
- Installation of Michael Pahl as Executive Minister (Video) - Recorded at Morden Mennonite Church; attended by Lisa Bueckert, Gerald Gerbrandt, and Doug Klassen.
- Meditation on Col 2:1-7- Michael Pahl

### 3. Welcoming guests- Richard Klassen

special welcome to guests, partner representatives, and participants in Mennonite Church Manitoba, including:

- Doug Klassen, Executive Minister for Mennonite Church Canada.
- Ryan Siemens, Executive Minister for Mennonite Church Saskatchewan
- Doug Amstutz, Development Associate for Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary
- Cheryl Pauls, President of Canadian Mennonite University
- Terry Schellenberg, Abram Bergen and Karl Koop from CMU
- Harold Schlegel, Executive Director of Mennonite Collegiate Institute
- Tobi Thiessen, Ginny Hostetler, and Nicolien Klassen-Wiebe from Canadian Mennonite
- Brad Reimer and Simone Thiessen from MCC Manitoba.

### 4. Introduction of Board Members- Richard Klassen (Report Book p. 57)

### 5. Meeting preliminaries—Richard Klassen

- Quorum was present (31/39 congregations represented) 115 delegates
- Erwin Warkentin as Parliamentarian
- Naomi Ewert taking minutes
- It was noted that in lieu of in-person offering for MCM project, attendants were encouraged to make a donation to Camps with Meaning via the MCM website.
- Agenda on page 5 of report book

### 6. Acceptance of minutes from 73rd Annual Gathering March 7, 2020 (Report Book p. 26) - presented by Richard Klassen

Corrections:

- Wes Sawatsky (Seeds): Item 6 should read “Recognition that the financial system does not serve MCM very well”. Richard added that at present, the system does serve MCM very well, but at the time was going through period of transition.
- Art Harms (Prairie Mennonite Fellowship): Item 14 should read “combining of Trinity Mennonite and Crystal City Mennonite Church” not Mather Mennonite.
  - *Motion: That the Annual Gathering minutes of March 7, 2020 be accepted as corrected*
  - *Moved by Colleen Edmunds, seconded by Laverne Siemens. Motion carried*

### 7. Report of 2020 Board Actions- presented by Richard Klassen.

- David Driedger (First Mennonite): Question if Conscientious Civil Disobedience Policy is an internal document or available to the larger body.

- Doug Klassen: MCM has affirmed the work MC Canada has done with this policy, but some regions are still in discussion. It was originally drafted for staff, but would potentially share more publically once all regional churches have responded.

*Motion from the Board: That the 2020 MCM Board actions be approved as circulated  
Motion carried.*

## 8. Introduction of MCM Staff

- Richard Klassen acknowledged with gratitude the work of Rick Neufeld and Peter Rempel stepping in as Interim Executive Minister and Interim Administrator in 2020. Michael Pahl introduced MCM staff (Report Book pp. 55-56) and thanked Richard for stepping in as Moderator at the last minute.

## 9. STAFF REPORTS AND CONGREGATIONAL STORIES

- Executive Minister's Report (video) – Michael Pahl
  - Song from Faith and Life Men's Choir
  - Time spent with office tasks, lease agreements, mold removal in the studio
  - Have shared worship with many congregations
  - Will be meeting with pastor clusters and congregations to discern together who we are as MCM
  - Co-sponsoring a webinar event 'Break Every Yoke' with First Mennonite Church addressing basic living wage
  - Begun exploring fulfillment of the commitment to continue conversations on LGBTQ and same-sex relationships after a three year discerning period that ended in 2020.
  - Other topics of discussion in the Church: truth and reconciliation, climate change, racism
  - Circle of Gods people radio program- Claudia Dueck, Nadya Langelotz
  - Woven (formerly Mennonite Women Manitoba)- Bethany Bunko
  - MCM Palestine-Israel Working Group
- Congregational Report- Prairie Mennonite-
  - Video of September 2020 service blessing the new community.
- Ministerial Leadership Report (video)—Rick Neufeld and Kathy Giesbrecht
  - Cluster groups for pastors together on Zoom—sharing from Andrew Wiens (Nordheim)
  - Company of 1000 to provide loans for those serving in the church or pursuing leadership ministry—sharing from Dale Friesen (Douglas), Lizzie Wipf (North Kildonan), and Moses Falco (Sterling)
  - Interim pastoral ministry program—sharing from Valerie Smith (Charleswood) and Karen Schellenberg on their experience
  - Community of Spiritual Leaders (CoSL)—Doug Klassen
  - Youth Ministers fellowship – sharing from Erika Enns Rodine (first Mennonite)
  - Mentoring program—sharing from Corey Hildebrand (Emmanuel)
  - Looking forward in 2022– Youth Gathering in Alberta, Mennonite World Conference in Indonesia.
- Mission report (video)—Dorothy Fontaine
  - International Witness- Jeanette Hanson highlighted missions in China, Thailand, Bolivia, South Korea, and Burkina Faso supported by MCM churches, and Bethlehem and Columbia church partners.
  - Indigenous Settler relations- Steve Heinrichs presented ways support has been given, calls for action, and conversations that have happened with regional churches five years on from TRC.
  - Planning an online workshop to share the work of Christ in the life of the Church and local mission.
  - Co-facilitating a regional working group (Mennonite Indigenous Solidarity Group of Manitoba) inviting individuals to work hands on with Indigenous Settler relations.
- Congregational Report (video)- Morden Mennonite – Larissa Pahl
  - Partnership between Morden Mennonite and The Hub (community foodbank) which has been operating out of the church building since spring 2020.

- Camps with Meaning Report (video)- Janet Peters
  - Creating an impacting and long lasting community through camp. Plans for summer 2021 are still uncertain, but learned last summer how to work within restrictions and making connections even if it is just for one day.
  - Video from 2020 camp program.
  - Report from pop up camp at Grace Mennonite Church- Kyle Penner and his children
  - Thank you to summer staff and volunteers, and year-round staff and volunteers from Dorothy Fontaine
  - Report from Koinonia- Matt Heide: mini lodge open for rentals, creating opening plan for main lodge with Province of Manitoba
  - Camp Assiniboia Report and Financial goals- Dorothy Fontaine
    - ◁ Rental groups not permitted at camp which has hampered revenue. Deficit of 2020 approx. \$38,000.
    - ◁ Staff laid off in Sept 2020. Some have returned for preparation for summer program.
    - ◁ Have applied for government and other organization grants.
    - ◁ Will have another difficult year in 2021. Providing an accurate financial forecast is difficult. Deficit could be 2-3x that of 2020.
    - ◁ Establishing Covid Stabilization Fund and crowd funding campaign.

#### Responses to Reports:

- Erwin Warkentin (Bethel): on behalf of Bethel's Deacon Executive Committee asked if the Board has talked about restarting conversations on same-sex relationships after almost five years since the end of MC Canada's BFC process.
  - Response- Michael Pahl: Read minutes from 2017 stating the commitment to share how the spirit has moved after a three year moratorium which was up in 2020. Because of EM transitions and COVID, this discerning process never happened. EM will be in communication with pastors and see where congregations are at and bring a plan to the board to determine the work of the spirit
- Esther Epp Tiessen (Home St): Would the Board consider new version of Conference Values? The last ones (listed in Report Book p. 7) were adopted in 1998.
  - Response- Michael Pahl: would like to hear from congregations first to see how we are understanding God among us and then figure out who we are as MCM with Board involvement.
- Rachel Siemens (Carman Mennonite) – very grateful to Darryl for his support provided to MCM congregations navigating online worship resources.

---BREAK----

## 10. Worship and prayer (video)—Sterling Mennonite Church

## 11. Introduction of wider church body, service partners, connection partners, and educational partners- Richard Klassen

Noted that reports from these organizations are pp. 35-53 in Report Book.

- Mennonite Church Saskatchewan report (video)- Ryan Siemens
  - Made up of 25 congregations support each other in ministry
  - Shared church transitions for MC Sask from 2020.
- Mennonite Church Canada Report (video) - Doug Klassen
  - In 2020, made sure there was support for regional bodies and individual churches.
  - Launched mission support networks, Be it Resolved, CommonWord worship resources, and donations to MWC relief fund.
  - Shared visions for the future of the Mennonite church.
- Canadian Mennonite University Report (video)- Cheryl Pauls

- Launched the Centre for Career and Vocation
- Vignettes from student life

## 12. MCM Appointments- Bob Wiebe

- Noted that names of those who are currently serving as MCM reps and on MCM Committees are listed in Report Book (pp. 32-33)
- Nominations slate presented in Report Book (p. 34) with the addition of Ennet Bera (Charleswood, for MCC Board), Linda Nichols (Pembina Fellowship, for Eden Board), and Moses Falco (Sterling, for Nominating Committee).
- *Motion from the Board: That the Board nominations to committees and partner organizations be affirmed as presented.*
- *Motion carried.*
- *Motion: That the nominations to the Board be affirmed as presented*
- *Moved by Tim Wenger, seconded by Lynell Bergen.*

### Questions:

- Gabrielle Bishop Wiebe (Douglas): Are those listed on the nominations slate all the Board positions?
  - Response-Bob Wiebe: Board members that are carrying over listed on p. 54 of Report Book.
- Karen Peters (Steinbach MC): What is done to ensure diversity among the Board of Directors?
  - Response - Bob Wiebe: Recruitment preference is given to members of MCM churches and Nominations Committee has tried to accommodate all requests for diversity. The specific diversity and makeup of MCM has not been explored to make sure it is represented.
  - Response – Michael Pahl: has sat on Nominating Committee and diversity is a large topic of conversation.
- *Motion carried.*

## 13. 2020 Financial Report and 2021 Budget (video)—Michael Pahl

- Introductory comments:
  - Covid 19 has made everything unpredictable but God has provided.
  - Overview given of categories of Revenue and Expenses and how the Bottom line (revenues minus expenses) should be close to zero.
  - All Financial reports and Budgets in Report Book Addendum.
- 2020 Finance Report:
  - Individual and congregational giving lower than budgeted.
  - MC Canada support lower reflects an agreement to credit this amount back to MCM for previous over-payment.
  - Expenses minimized due to lack of travel and no EM for six months.
  - Government grant obtained to cover the amount of Camps with Meaning deficit.
  - Bottom line- due to hard work by staff and grants has resulted in a substantial surplus.
- 2021 Camps Projections (not a budget)- two scenarios for how 2021 could play out
  - Scenario 1- worst case scenario- minimal rentals and staff layoffs; Scenario 2 – full rentals and all staff return September 1. Both are assuming no overnight camps.
  - In either scenario expenses will be greater than revenue and will result in significant deficit.
  - Strategies to dealing with deficit will include making constant adjustments, minimizing expenses, fundraising and applying for grants.
  - Camps with Meaning has been successful in their application for a Winnipeg Foundation grant.
- MCM 2021 Budget
  - To deal with Camps deficit, support for MC Canada will be less and support for Camps will be increased just for 2021. Part of this extra support to Camps will help with transition staffing needs.
  - Bottom line of 2021 budget takes into account Camps deficit of Scenario 1. With 2020 surplus, budget is balanced.
- Responses to Reports:
  - Notes in chat expressing appreciation for Michael's reports and clear presentation.
  - Wes Sawatsky (Seeds): Commended Michael on his presentation. It would be nice to have year-to-year com-

parison in Statement of Equity. Question- what is Capital Asset Impairment (CK) on p 4 of 2020 Financial Statements?

- ◁ Response – Richard Klassen: Likely a liability on one of assets, maybe Koinonia.
- ◁ Response—Michael Pahl: will clarify and those who want this clarification can email him directly.
- ◁ Response – Richard Klassen: The reviewed financial statements presented to the Board did have the equity comparison.
- ◁ Response – Marvin Lesser (Emmanuel): capital asset impairment means something that is in need of repair in order for it to be useable. Camp Koinonia has been working on renovating their basement and it could be related to that.
- Moses Falco (Sterling): How might the reduced contribution to MC Canada affect nation-wide ministry? What are other regions doing? What will 2022 numbers look like?
  - ◁ Response—Michael Pahl: ESG has been discussing a revenue sharing agreement between regional churches for nationwide support based on percentages of revenue. MCM aims to support MC Canada with 30% of congregational giving. For 2021, it will be 25%. MC Canada has been having surpluses and have been looking to give back to regional churches (also part of revenue sharing agreement). As a staff and board, this will be monitored.

- *Motion from the Board: That the 2020 Financial Report be approved as presented.*
- *Motion carried.*
- *Motion from the Board: That the 2021 MCM Budget and Camps Projections be approved as presented.*
- *Motion carried.*

## **14. Celebration of Church Life**

### **15. Closing remarks- Richard Klassen**

- Thanks given to Darryl Neustaedter Barg as technical producer for Zoom meeting, Naomi Ewert and Elisabeth Franz Warkentin for administrative assistance in preparation for the meeting, Michael Pahl for jumping right in as EM in January, MCM staff and other participants for preparing video reports, and to attendees as delegates, guests, partner reps and participants in Mennonite Church Manitoba
- Thanks to Gerald and Michael for putting together a meeting that was very well done.

### **16. Closing benediction- Michael Pahl**

Recorded by  
Naomi Ewert



# MCM Representatives to Related Organization Boards

## ORGANIZATIONS RELATED TO MCM

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

### **Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary**

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

*Rachel Siemens (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)*

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

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

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

### **Eden Health Care Services**

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

*Laura Unger (Glenlea) 2023*

*Cheryl Braun (Glenlea) 2024*

*James Schellenberg (Douglas) 2023*

*Wil Epp (Emmanuel) 2025*

*Lawrence Siemens (Morden) 2024*

*Linda Nichols (Pembina) 2024*

*Emma Hamm (Hope) 2025*

*Ken Froese (Pembina Fellowship) 2025*

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

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

*Scott Kroeker (Fort Garry), (completing term)*

*Susan Reynar (Home Street) 2025*

*Allison Janzen (First) 2025*

## **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**

Harold Schlegel, Executive Director, Box 250, Gretna, MB R0G 0V0 Phone: 204-327-5891

## **Mennonite Disaster Service**

Ross Penner, Regional Manager

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

## **Westgate Mennonite Collegiate**

Bob Hummelt, Principal, 86 West Gate, Winnipeg, MB R3C 2E1

Phone: 204-775-7111

# Committees

## Board of Directors

- Gerald Gerbrandt, Moderator (Bethel) 2024
- Cheryl Braun, East (Glenlea) 2023
- Evelyn Rempel Petkau, South (Carman) 2023
- Andrea Hildebrand, South (Altona Mennonite) 2024
- Karen Tiessen, West/North (Prairie) 2025
- Richard Klassen, Winnipeg (First) (completing term)
- Don Rempel Boschman, Winnipeg (Douglas) 2024
- Isaac Schlegel, Young Adult (Sargent) (completing term)

## Ministerial Leadership Committee

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

## Congregational Health Committee

- Don Rempel Boschman, Chair (Douglas) 2024
- Lisa Enns (Charleswood) 2025
- Mark Tiessen Dyck (Altona Bergthaler) 2025
- Bruno Dyck (Charleswood) 2023
- Dori Zerbe Cornelson (Hope) 2024

## Camp Committee

- Reynold Friesen, Chair (FaithWorks – non-MCM) 2024
- Sandy Plett (Pembina) (completing term)
- Myles Tiessen (Prairie) 2025
- Andrew Klassen Brown (Sterling) 2023
- Dave Wiebe (Springstein) 2024

## Finance Committee

- Richard Klassen, Winnipeg (First) (completing term)
- Ruth Siemens (Gretna) 2023
- Doug Dyck (Covenant) 2024

## Nominating Committee

- Trevor Friesen-Stoesz, Chair (Altona Bergthaler) 2023
- Henriette Schellenberg (Douglas) 2024
- Moses Falco (Sterling) 2024
- Nicolien Klassen-Wiebe (Charleswood) (completing term)
- Ken Kroeker (Morden) (completing term)

# Nominations Slate

Name	Term	Term Expiry
<b>MCM Board (Elected by Delegates)</b>		
Roy Lee, Winnipeg (Sterling)	First	2025
VACANT, Young Adult		2025
<b>MCM Ministerial Leadership Committee (Appointed by Board)</b>		
Julia Thiessen (Charleswood)	Second	2025
Lee Hiebert (Steinbach)	First	2025
<b>MCM Congregational Health Committee (Appointed by Board)</b>		
Lisa Enns (Charleswood)	First	2025
Mark Tiessen Dyck (Altona Bergthaler)	First	2025
Bruno Dyck (Charleswood)	First	2023
Dori Zerbe Cornelson (Hope)	First	2024
<b>MCM Camp Committee (Appointed by Board)</b>		
Krista Neustaedter Barg	First	2025
Myles Tiessen (Prairie)	Second	2025
<b>MCM Finance Committee (Appointed by Board)</b>		
Ruth Siemens (Gretna)	First	2023
Doug Dyck (Covenant)	First	2024
<b>MCM Nominating Committee (Appointed by Board)</b>		
VACANT		2025
VACANT		2025
<b>Eden Health Care Services (Appointed by Board)</b>		
Emma Hamm (Hope)	Second	2025
Wil Epp (Emmanuel)	Second	2025
Ken Froese (Pembina Fellowship)	Second	2025
<b>Inter-Mennonite Campus Ministry (Appointed by Board)</b>		
Allison Janzen (First)	Second	2025
Susan Reynar (Home Street)	Second	2025
Bernie Loepky (Pembina)	First	2025
<b>Manitoba Multifaith Council (Appointed by Board)</b>		
Peter Rempel (Charleswood)	First	2025
<b>Mennonite Central Committee (Appointed by Board)</b>		
Yvonne Stoesz (Pembina)	Second	2025

# Our Nationwide Ministry Together

## Our Covenant

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

## Joint Council

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

## Executive Staff Group (ESG)

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

## Other nationwide groups meeting regularly:

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

## Nationwide Gatherings

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

# Mennonite Church Canada

Doug Klassen, 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

Mennonite Church Canada Biannual Gathering delegates:

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



## Executive Minister's report

*"...for I do hope..." (Romans 15:22)*

It has been a difficult year.

In 2021, on the world stage, tension and trouble abounded. As Canadians, our hearts sank when we learned of the unmarked graves of hundreds of Indigenous children in Kamloops, and then at Cowessess First Nation in Saskatchewan. More discoveries followed. We experienced another summer of drought and forest fires, followed by disastrous floods clearly attributed to our changing climate. This, along with global political uprisings, supply chain disruptions, market uncertainties...we have almost grown numb to the struggles that we hear in the daily news.

Discouragement has also been felt in many of our congregations as well. As of mid-January, many congregations across the nationwide church have returned, yet again, to worship via recorded video and livestreaming. Hopes for in-person Sunday School, kids' clubs, adult bible studies, pastoral visits and potlucks have once again been postponed.

We had envisioned that, by now, congregations and regions would be sharing together the new ways they have found to be the church, as we emerged from the pandemic. However, we continue to tune into what public health officials recommend so we can limit risk to the most vulnerable among us.

I am reminded of the Apostle Paul whose plans to visit the Christians in Rome (Romans 15:22ff) were repeatedly delayed. Then, in due time, he was able to travel and minister again. Like Paul, the delay doesn't

mean that we have stopped hoping and dreaming! I'm so thankful to those who have volunteered to be part of the Community of Spiritual Leadership and the Intercultural Church Steering Committee, new groups that will provide leadership and discernment for our nationwide community of faith in the coming years.

Our Sustainability Leadership Group (SLG) worked with students from The King's University in Edmonton who



[produced a resource](#) to help our congregations take steps to become more sustainable communities.

One of the blessings of pandemic restrictions has been that Mennonite Church Canada executive has had time to clarify nationwide church governance structure and ministry priorities. We

have engaged with MC USA to update our ministerial misconduct policy and we are currently expanding the mandate of the SLG to anchor a nationwide climate-action response.

As you will read in the following reports, our program directors have also adapted their activities to continue to resource congregations across the nationwide church and to grow our engagement with our international partners and Indigenous neighbours.

Sincere and heartfelt thanks to all of you for your generous support of the nationwide church. We are so blessed to be the recipients of your financial contributions and your gifts of time, talents and abilities.



We trust that God will grow strong ministries and witness in 2022.

Submitted by  
Doug Klassen

[dklassen@mennonitechurch.ca](mailto:dklassen@mennonitechurch.ca)



# CommonWord

Bookstore and Resource Centre

CommonWord is your bookstore and resource centre, a nationwide ministry of Mennonite Church Canada. We help connect you with Anabaptist and related materials – to buy, borrow or access online – that inspire, provoke, equip and engage.

Don't let the pandemic keep you from reading or accessing new resources. Let CommonWord help encourage your faith conversations. Peruse our carefully selected reading lists. Circulate bulk loan orders among your church members. Pick up our discounted Common Read titles. Attend our book launches (virtual and in-person). Engage children with our CommonWord Kids collection.

We especially want to serve those of you who haven't engaged with us before. Our ministry is:

- **Simple.** We are a loan library, an online forum and a retail bookstore combined in one location – [commonword.ca](http://commonword.ca). Visit us for a good book to borrow, a small group study to purchase or a worship resource to download, in English, or many other languages.
- **Comprehensive.** We are Mennonite Church Canada's resourcing arm and have a complete list of nationwide church resources (from pastor salary guidelines to International Witness materials) and Herald Press titles, in addition to Canadian Mennonite University and other partner materials. Visit us if you're looking for an Anabaptist podcast, Mennonite

author, or denominational publication.

- **Accessible.** Our digital resources, including hundreds of [Together in Worship](#) (digital worship) materials, are free. Our loan items ship at no cost, both ways, anywhere in Canada. Our retail titles are competitively priced. Visit us, whether you're in New Brunswick, Vancouver Island or any place in between.
- **Unique.** There's no other Anabaptist centre quite like us. Visit us for a unique title on climate action, Indigenous-Settler relations, intercultural church or other timely topics. Or, when in Winnipeg, come for the frozen perogies or Thai curries!
- **Personal.** Our staff are knowledgeable and dedicated – and are available over the phone or by email. We value the relationships we have with many of you – and look forward to serving more pastors, parents, congregational leaders and avid readers.

We are grateful for the church and university's ongoing commitment to Christian formation. Thank you for your continued trust as we advance resources that seek to strengthen the church.

Please remain in touch by calling 1-877-846-1593 or e-mailing [info@commonword.ca](mailto:info@commonword.ca). Follow us on Facebook and Instagram. Subscribe to our bi-weekly *Curator* email. Embed our RSS feeds. Keep reading!



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



# Indigenous-Settler Relations

In 2021, Canadians were forced to reckon with genocide, the government finally affirmed Indigenous human rights in law and Indigenous land defenders – in multiple places – stood their ground to resist climate catastrophe. Through these events – both heartrending and regenerative – churches like ours could hear the call of Creator and found ways to respond.

## Unmarked graves

On May 27, 2021, news broke that shocked the country—[215 unmarked graves](#) found on the grounds of the Kamloops Indian Residential School. In the weeks to come, hundreds, then thousands more graves were identified in other locations across Canada. So many Indigenous children buried on schoolyards, some as young as three years old.

In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Final Report contained an [entire volume](#) on the reality of missing children and unmarked burials. Not many took notice. But now, through multiple "discoveries," a floodlight was shone on this violent piece of Canada's history – one that moved the [Canadian Historical Association](#) to declare that the Canada's treatment of Indigenous peoples warrants the use of the word "genocide."

## Be it Resolved Challenge

In June, more than one hundred people joined Mennonite Church Canada's [Be it Resolved Challenge](#) a group that committed itself to: 1) remembering the commitments that Mennonites have made to Indigenous justice over the past 50 years and 2) making a personal pledge to live out specific "calls to action."



## Recognition of Indigenous rights

For decades, Indigenous activists and their allies have been trying to get Canada to embrace the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in law. Mennonite Church Canada joined the effort in 2016. On June 21,

2021 – Indigenous Peoples Day – [Bill C-15](#), *An Act respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, achieved Royal Assent. Implementation will take time, but C-15 should bring us closer to the Declaration's vision of "harmonious and cooperative relations" rooted in justice and respect.



UNDRIP supporters at CMU in 2019.

## #LandBack

As Canadians wrestled with the violence of colonialism past, as government embraced the possibility of a post-colonial future, many Indigenous peoples in the present were out on their lands and waters, risking their lives to protect their territories from resource development that lacks consent. From the east coast fisheries of the Mi'kmaq to the Haudenosaunee-led "1492 Land Back Lane"; from the "Tiny House Warriors" in Secwepemc territory to the Unist'ot'en and Gidim'ten water protectors



Esther Kern (front row middle) and David Janzen (right) visited Wet'suwet'en.

in Wet'suwet'en; frontline, land back movements are growing in frequency due to the increasing threat of global warming. Mennonite Church Canada, in partnership

with regional church working groups and [Christian Peacemaker Teams](#) supported two of these resistance movements. We brought weekly meals and supplies, wrote solidarity [statements](#) and hosted awareness-raising [webinars](#). We sent teams out [to the land](#), to be with, learn from and support Indigenous land defenders in their divine vocation of protecting creation.



The work isn't easy. But it is important, necessary and often joyful. Together!

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

Through prayer and online conversations, International Witness has traveled the world this year. Mennonite Church British Columbia organized a Road Trip visiting three countries in June. Witness Support Networks connected with Witness workers and local partners on regular Zoom calls. Witness workers, in live and recorded messages, spoke in churches across Canada while in their countries of service.

## Highlights from 2021:

- We prayed for an end to violence and for peace to reign, together with siblings in faith [in Myanmar, Colombia](#) and Ethiopia.
- In July, IW hosted [an online conversation](#) with the Colombian Mennonite Church (IMCOL) to share our churches' responses to the discovery of unmarked graves at former Indian residential school sites in Canada and to ongoing violence against civilians in Colombia. Forming congregation-to-congregation partnerships with us is a priority for IMCOL.
- In October, we went on [a virtual tour](#) of Bethlehem Bible College with faculty and students who shared about life in Bethlehem.
- Witness workers George and Tobia Veith returned to Canada in the fall, [ending 30 years of service](#) in the greater China area. They spoke in churches from October (2021) to January (2022) sharing how they witnessed God at work.
  - Thirteen of the 37 peace and reconciliation (PAR) teams trained by Witness workers [Lakan Sumulong and Lakambini Mapayapa](#) (Dann and Joji Pantoja) in the Philippines have asked for sustainable-agriculture training with Coffee for Peace. Several Indigenous people groups in Mindanao also invited PeaceBuilders Community Inc. and Coffee for Peace to work with them on sustainable-agriculture and inclusive development training. Other PAR teams are focused on community service and peacebuilding.
  - Chuncheon Community Peace Center in South Korea, founded by Witness worker Bock Ki Kim, is now financially independent and pays its trainees, who are invited to work in local schools, with the police service and other community groups. Training



George and Tobia Veith.



Bock Ki Kim (middle) trains facilitators in the restorative justice circle.

happened twice this year to increase facilitators of the restorative justice circle because of high demand.

- Worshipping groups in China are breaking off into smaller groups to avoid criticism from authorities. They are finding creative ways to share resources. This means an even bigger need for the leadership development and training Mennonite Church Canada is supporting.
- Leaders of four Mennonite Peace Houses, small house church gatherings, are mentored by Witness workers Tom and Christine Poovong in Thailand. They are part of Friends of Grace Church Association, where 43 congregations share resources for leadership development, outreach and income generation. Due to COVID-19, these leaders meet online every week. They are now developing an eight-month online training course.
- Meserete Kristos Seminary in Ethiopia has invited [Werner and Joanne De Jong \(MCA\)](#) to teach and support faculty development. After a lengthy delay due to visa issues, the De Jongs left for Ethiopia in mid-January (2022).
- Mennonite Seoul, a worship group founded by Witness workers Sook Kyoung Park and Bock Ki Kim, continues to meet online and in person when able. Sook Kyoung and Bock Ki hosted a retreat for the group during a break in COVID-19 lockdowns.



Werner and Joanne De Jong.



Thank you for your support as we continue to witness what God is doing in the world.

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



## 2021 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](http://www.mcec.ca)



**A Word From Leah Reesor-Keller, Executive Minister**  
[lreesorkeller@mcec.ca](mailto:lreesorkeller@mcec.ca)

### Greetings from MCEC!

I am so grateful to be a part of the MCEC community of faith. I continue to be amazed by the resiliency and faithfulness of MCEC congregations as together we extend the peace of Jesus Christ in our neighbourhoods, nationwide as Mennonite Church Canada, and globally.

Over this past year, we have been on a journey listening for God as we build a shared story about who we are and who God is calling us to become. Where is God at work doing new things? What seeds are sprouting around us? Our verse for this time of community discernment is Isaiah 43:19. *I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.*

Through interviews, social media, ten Courageous Imagination podcast episodes, conversation forums and regional gatherings, we gathered input and feedback on new identity and priority statements as we look to where God is calling us together into the future. Each conversation, whether in-person or online, was filled with hopefulness and deep insight. Across our community, we heard a deep desire to be open to transformation by the Spirit, to follow Jesus with costly discipleship as we put our faith into action, and a longing to stay rooted and grounded in scripture, prayer and worship. Our Annual Gathering April 29-30, 2022 will be a significant milestone on our journey as we prayerfully receive and consider the updated identity and mission statements, along with priorities building on the feedback from the Courageous Imagination listening journey.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leah Reesor-Keller".

Leah Reesor-Keller  
MCEC Executive Minister | [lreesorkeller@mcec.ca](mailto:lreesorkeller@mcec.ca)



**Mentoring relationships are an important part of Transitioning into Ministry – Pastors Jim and Jonathan**



**Fall Courageous Imagination gatherings in Leamington, Niagara, Kitchener, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal and Zoom.**

### MCEC Community of Congregations

- 99 congregations
- 82 full membership
- 16 provisional membership
- 1 long-term church plant
- Worship in 19 languages

### Supporting Pastors & Congregational Leaders

- 5 pastors ordained
- 9 pastors licensed
- 13 pastors installed
- 5 Transitioning into Ministry (TiM) graduates
- 40 Admin Day participants from across Canada – online networking day for administrative assistants
- 50 pastors supporting each other through 5 online Pastoral Conversations
- Monthly youth leader conversations

### Supporting Congregations

- Innovate – providing discipleship resourcing to 11 congregations through ReLearning Community and Community of Practice
- Creative Faith: Live youth online Sunday School series – 20-30 participants
- 2 active working groups
  - Truth & Reconciliation
  - Palestine Israel Network

### Congregational Transitions

- New Provisional Congregations
  - Hiyaw Amalak, Ottawa
  - Ma Destinée, Montreal

### Church Plants

- Online Resourcing Day for 41 Church Planters focused on Courageous Self-Care
- Active conversations with 40 church plants/congregations

## **The MENNONITE CHURCH BRITISH COLUMBIA (MCBC) Story to the Nationwide Regional Churches for 2021, Submitted by Garry Janzen, Executive Minister**

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13*

As we reflect on this past year, it has brought many more challenges. We spoke of 2020 being a year like none other with all the uncertainties brought to us by COVID-19. With many of the ravages of climate change landing in BC, including a heat dome, atmospheric rivers, and the destructive effects of fire and flooding, we are moved to look for what might give us hope. Romans 15 reminds us of where our hope comes from, ending with the benediction in verse 13 above. May this hope that we find in Jesus sustain us and carry us as our theme in 2022.

In 2021 we affirmed a new structure for MCBC. Task Groups have grown, and others have been formed. There is much that our people have said they care about and want to act on, and the work of our task groups reflect these interests. Our task groups are too numerous to name them all here. We give thanks to our Ministry Leaders: Andrew Haak (Cultivating Anabaptist Vision), Henry Krause (Engaging God's World) and Bob Boehr (Growing Community). They do quarterly reports on the work in their ministry area. As Leadership Board members they also help with giving overall direction to MCBC.

We have said that the local congregation is the foundational unit of the church. It has been brought to our attention that we still need to figure out how our MCBC task groups connect with this commitment. It might be good for those who are in task groups to let their congregations know what they are doing, and for congregational leadership to become familiar with the task groups that their people have joined and learn about their work.

MCBC has developed an Indigenous Land Acknowledgement statement. Here it is, "We respectfully and gratefully acknowledge that we gather on the unceded, traditional, and ancestral lands of Indigenous First Nations." It is designed to be general for use anywhere in the province, brief, and adaptable to the specific Indigenous lands on which any MCBC event may be taking place.

In September I announced my plans to retire mid-2022. The exact time will be dependant on when a new Executive Minister is found. There is hope that I might have overlap with the new person for some orientation. I am in my 15<sup>th</sup> year, and I am so thankful for this rich experience.

The 2022 MCBC Annual Gathering on February 26<sup>th</sup> will be on Zoom. Video reports will be posted in advance.

This fall it became possible to meet in person again for worship services. This gave opportunity to catch up with baptisms, pastoral installations, licensing, and ordination. It was a great pleasure to be able to do these celebrations, but with the continuing uncertainties regarding COVID, preparation was challenging. We learned to do a no-touch laying on of hands.

Appreciation needs to be given to the Calling & Credentialing Task Group for the many Zoom interviews they did and other hard work they were called to do virtually this year. Also, the Intercultural Church Task Group has been meeting with our non-English pastors and others interested in MCBC congregations becoming intercultural, thanks to the work of Joon Park. This is a very positive and hopeful initiative.

As 2022 unfolds, hopefully this will be the year to move beyond COVID-19 as a pandemic. Our Nationwide work together as the Mennonite Church gives me hope. May we be filled with hope in whatever circumstances we find ourselves, and may we find our way to amazing new beginnings as we serve together in God's work.



# ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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

## MCA welcomes new Staff

**Steven Giugovaz** joined MCA as our *Church Engagement Minister*. He focuses on connecting MCA congregations, exploring missional callings and building connections with the ministries we share.



**Suzanne Gross** began as *North Edmonton Ministry Interim Worker*. This Christ-centred ministry focuses on relationships and draws our interfaith community together through witness, peace-building, hospitality, and dialogue.



As we stand on the shifting sands of the COVID-19 pandemic, we're challenged to examine the places we are connected and rooted, and how we express God's love in contexts of ongoing uncertainty. In 2021, MCA was filled with numerous expressions of the connections that we share with one another as a community of congregations.

## Nurturing One Another

**Tim Wiebe-Neufeld** (Executive Minister) provides support for pastors and congregations including walking with congregations as they navigate transitions in leadership. He engages in meetings with chairs, treasurers and administrators, and connects with congregants through speaking opportunities.

Pastors Council is a place for our leaders to dialogue, vision and encourage each other as they provide spiritual leadership during these challenging times.

Delegate session workshops, the Heritage Retreat, Faith Studies sessions and the Pastors Retreat provided opportunities to participate in discussion, discernment and direction-setting.

Three post-secondary students were provided with bursaries as they explore faith and vocation at Anabaptist/Mennonite schools. The MC Canada Sustainability Leadership Group provides leadership and guidance as congregations examine their climate impacts and engage in creation care.



## Spreading our Wings

Our MCA community stretched and adjusted to staff changes in 2021. In addition to welcoming two new staff, we celebrated 10 years of ministry and retirement with **Donna Entz** (North Edmonton Ministry). **Werner & Joanne De Jong** received an invitation to ministry in Ethiopia. They join **Tom and Christine**



## Upcoming Events

### Snow Camp

February 26, 27



### Annual Delegate Sessions

including the launch of **E3:Y3**  
March 19 by zoom

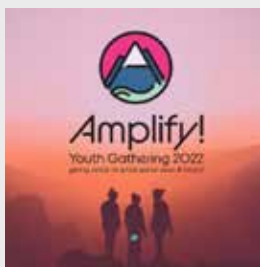


## Gathering 2022

**We Declare:** Edmonton  
July 29 - August 1



**Amplify:** Camp Valaqua  
July 31 - August 4



**Poovong** (Thailand) as Alberta-based workers in our team of International Witness workers who train and provide resources to church leaders. International Witness is made up of 13 country partnerships around the world.



## Celebrations

We celebrated together in 2021! On March 21, our 12 congregations met together on zoom to worship God, who invites us into community. Throughout the year congregations worshipped together, apart, in person and online, building on our **E3 theme: Encountering, Embracing, Embodying Christ in Community.**



The return of summer camp elicited celebrations for people of all ages, from children, to parents, to staff and a range of volunteers.

**Camp Valaqua** provides a valuable space to encounter

God in nature and for future leaders to gain skills and experience.

The Congregational Leadership Committee has the privilege of exploring one of our greatest celebrations together with congregations - the call to ministry and ordination of leaders!

## Faith and Faithfulness

These, and the numerous other expressions of faith and faithfulness in MCA staff and committee members, and the stories we hear from our congregations are evidence of God's goodness. They're evidence of a community that trusts one another and of people who are inspired and empowered by their faith. We don't know what curves the road ahead will hold, but we enter 2022 knowing God is faithful.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "B. Tiessen-Wiens".

Brenda Tiessen-Wiens, Moderator



## Mennonite Church Saskatchewan 2021 Annual Report



Mennonite Church Saskatchewan (MC Sask) is a community of 23 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.

At the 2021 Annual Delegate Sessions, held via Zoom on March 13, we focused on being *'Called to Hear,'* particularly from one another. We were richly blessed to hear from **Hanley, Superb,** and **Zoar** Mennonite Churches about their closures. The legacy and ministry of these communities has widely blessed the Mennonite Church over the years, and hearing their testimonies was a powerful reminder of the importance of our living into our calling as the Church to both *'hear'* and *'here'* (our ADS 2022 theme).

### Congregational Transitions

This calling to hear/here was lived into further through a variety of transitions during the year.

**Barb and Wilmer Froese** completed their term as Interim Pastors at Tiefengrund Rosenort MC on Dec. 31, 2020. **Patrick Preheim** began serving part-time at TRMC in April. On April 4, **Gary Peters** retired as pastor of Hanley MC, and this Sunday also marked the final worship service at Hanley MC. **Harry Harder** retired from Pleasant Point MC on May 15, and Pleasant Point and Warman MC's welcomed **Len Rempel** in June, with a joint installation service held on Oct. 24. On May 31 **Andrea Enns-Gooding** completed her term as pastor at Zoar MC, which was also the final worship service for Zoar MC. Andrea began her time as pastor for Rosthern MC on July 1 and was installed on Sept. 12. On Sept. 30 **Sarah Unrau** resigned as Youth Leader of Nutana Park MC. We were also blessed to have two pastors respond to their calling to serve the wider church through ordination services: **Susanne Guenther Loewen** (Nutana Park MC, June 27), and **Emily Summach** (Langham MF, Nov. 21)

### The Work of the Church

Throughout 2021, we continued to find ways to navigate in-person and online events, and search for ways to meaningfully – and safely – bring our community together and engage in the work of the Church. Online **Mega Menno** game nights became a regular way for youth to connect, and the fun continued when outdoor events at Shekinah and the Youth Farm became possible. Spending time listening to, and resourcing, pastors and congregations was an important part of this year, with pastor's gatherings and shared online services providing meaningful moments of connection. A new workshop, **Reimagine**, is now available to help congregations think about new ways to respond to the call to be the Church. In 2022 we look forward to gathering in Alberta for MC Canada gatherings **'We Declare'** and **'Amplify!' (youth)** to connect with our brothers and sisters once again from across MC Canada in fellowship and worship.

As we look to the year ahead, we invite your prayers as we prepare for **Kirsten Hamm-Epp** to be away on maternity leave (beginning Jan. 31, 2022), and to say farewell to **Ryan Siemens**, who is resigning his role as Executive Minister as of Jan. 31, 2022, to take on the role of Executive Director with Mennonite Central Committee Alberta. Ryan has contributed significantly to the MC Sask community, and his vision, heart for the Church, and laugh will be greatly missed. We are pleased to announce the hiring of **Josh Wallace** as Interim Executive Minister. Josh has served MC Sask as Church Engagement Minister since 2020, and we are deeply grateful for his willingness to increase his role during this time of transition. Please pray for all MC Sask staff and leadership as we navigate and prepare for these transitions.

Wishing you Christ's peace and hope,

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



*Youth fun at Shekinah!*



## 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 or partially 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/degrees-and-programs](https://ambs.ca/degrees-and-programs)
- **Yes, you *can* afford seminary!** We offer generous need-based financial aid, matching grants and scholarships for both full- and part-time students. See benefits for Canadians: [ambs.ca/ambs-financial-aid-for-canadians](https://ambs.ca/ambs-financial-aid-for-canadians)
- **Want to explore seminary study?** Take an online, campus or blended class, even if you're not yet admitted to AMBS, and your first three credit hours are 50% off! Check out our offerings: [ambs.ca/upcoming-courses](https://ambs.ca/upcoming-courses)
- **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 (at MWC in 2022!). 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 2022  
3003 Benham Avenue, Elkhart, IN 46517 | 574.295.3726

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[twitter.com/ambs\\_seminary](https://twitter.com/ambs_seminary)  
[ambs.ca/news-and-updates](https://ambs.ca/news-and-updates)

#### **Regional church connections**

##### **2021 graduate from MC Manitoba:**

MDiv Connect: Josh Janzen (Bergthaler)

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

Rachel Siemens (First – Winnipeg)

#### **AMBS statistics (2021–22)**

- This year, 116 students are enrolled in graduate-level degree or certificate programs; 11 are guest students. Sixty-four are from the U.S., nine are from Canada, and 54 are international students.
- The nondegree Journey Missional Leadership Development Program has 18 participants in the U.S., Canada, Southeast Asia and Uganda.

#### *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. Some courses include optional weekly video conversations with professors in real time. No grades, no papers!
  - Exploring Peace and Justice in the Bible
  - Exploring Anabaptist History and Theology
  - Understanding Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture: What's Different and Why?
  - Transforming Congregational Conflict and Communication
  - The Bible and Christian Nationalism: Faithful Leadership in a World of Political Idolatry

[ambs.ca/online-short-courses](https://ambs.ca/online-short-courses)
- **Pastors & Leaders 2023:** Feb. 13–16  
[ambs.ca/pastors-and-leaders](https://ambs.ca/pastors-and-leaders)
- **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 are available to speak on trauma-informed caregiving, undoing racism, intercultural competence, improvisational leadership, and more. Ask about virtual visits! [ambs.ca/invite](https://ambs.ca/invite)





## THE BETHANIA GROUP

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

*So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.* Isaiah 41:10

As we reflect back on a turbulent year in our Mission of providing compassionate, outstanding long-term care and affordable housing to seniors we affirm that God's grace has been and is sufficient to the task before us. The dominant theme for our organization, as we learnt to navigate the Covid-19 storm that hit many Long Term Care facilities hard, was to trust in God's unfailing grace to keep our residents safe and thriving.

The atmosphere in our facilities was often intense, with rapidly changing public health orders and restriction to protect the most vulnerable of our population. We are grateful for God's hand of protection, when a total of 33 residents in our PCHs were diagnosed, of which 12 died of Covid-19 related complications. At the height of the outbreak, we had 14 residents that required around the clock staff resources for adequate care. A number of creative adjustments needed to be made very quickly to ensure the basic needs of residents could be met in our facilities. The Bethania Chapel and Park area were converted into an isolation room for residents with Covid-19. Moving residents to this special care area as soon as test results were known, shutting down Units, and trying to limit Resident to Resident contact were key factors in limiting the transmission of the virus to other units. In hindsight, it seems appropriate that our Chapel became a true sanctuary for those residents whose lives were most at risk during this critical time. We are grateful for the Nurses, Health Care Aides and our Chaplains for their courage and dedication to our Residents' care. January 20, 2021 was a day of great rejoicing for Residents, families and staff, when the last three Residents came out of the Covid Care and Recovery Room, and the outbreak was declared over.

In the following months, our Nursing Leadership Team and Directors worked diligently at researching and implementing best practices to prevent further infections. Daily conference calls with Public Health Officials, WRHA, Infection Control and Prevention officers, the Vaccine Implementation Taskforce, Manitoba Health and Shared Health proved to be essential in providing direction and guidance for offering safe and effective service to our PCH Residents and Seniors Homes Tenants, as well as for our staff. The sheer volume of information was often overwhelming.

One of the most difficult requirements was the need to close our doors to outside visitors, especially family members, who are such an important part of the emotional, mental and spiritual wellbeing of the elderly. Keeping families informed

and connected safely to their loved ones remained uppermost on our minds. Families were kept informed of any changes in the health status of Residents, and end of life visits for families were facilitated. Spiritual care and support was offered to Residents, families and staff who were also grieving these losses.

From March 2020 to July 2021 there were long periods where all in-facility visits were suspended, and even our Indoor/Outdoor visiting was on hold during our Code Red shut down. While FaceTime and Google Duo visits provided a measure of connection between Residents and their Family members, we saw and felt the deep impact of the sadness and loneliness in the faces of our Residents. Our Health Care, Recreation and Spiritual Care staff worked diligently to comfort and reassure Residents during lock downs, and supported them on a one to one basis. As group programming for Recreation and Spiritual Care was suspended, our staff looked for innovative opportunities to facilitate viewing of Church services on CCTV on the Units, reading correspondence from family for the Residents, assisting in virtual visits, and one to one activities to prevent social isolation and loneliness.

Following the death of Residents we often heard the lament from families that they were not able to have a proper Funeral service due to Covid-19 restrictions. While we were not able to invite family members for in-person Memorial Services for those Residents who had died, we offered numerous Virtual Memorial Services via ZOOM that were received with great appreciation.

Throughout these trying times, we have strongly felt the continued support of family members and our faith communities who expressed their genuine concern for our Leadership Team, our Board of Directors, and our dedicated Staff. Encouragement was expressed through gift cards for staff meals, email messages of support and appreciation, prayers, financial gifts to the Memorial Foundation and many other expressions of caring.

As we look toward 2022, we anticipate that Covid-19 is likely to stay in circulation for some time to come. We endeavor to resist letting the negative impacts of this pandemic overwhelm us. Rather, we pledge to move forward with confident imagination of God's work among us, as we continue to care for our elderly.

Respectfully submitted for the Bethania Group,

Henry Neudorf, Board Chair

Gary J. Ledoux, CEO

Ferdinand Funk, Director of Spiritual Care / Chaplain

*Canadian Mennonite* tells the stories of our church family. With 26 issues per year, our website and social media, *Canadian Mennonite* also offers a place to talk about current faith issues. We are inspired by Paul's letter to the Hebrews, exhorting the church to spur one another on to love and good deeds. Sharing diverse perspectives in an atmosphere of respect helps us all grow as caring congregations and a nationwide community that makes a difference in the world.

Stories and contributions from Manitoba add to the richness of *CM* content. In 2021, correspondent **Nicolien Klassen-Wiebe** published 51 print and web-exclusive stories. Aaron Epp, Doug Klassen and Chris K. Huebner wrote feature articles. Will Braun's thought-provoking work generates conversation in print and online. Michael Pahl, Darryl Neustaedter-Barg, Rick Neufeld and Dorothy Fontaine contributed to the From Our Leaders column. Numerous individuals sent in letters to the editor, photos or wrote other articles or blogs.



**Nicolien  
Klassen-  
Wiebe**

Last summer, *CM* hired Canadian Mennonite University student Grace Bruinooge to work as a social media intern alongside Aaron Epp, *CM*'s Online Media Manager.

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. If you already have a print subscription and would like to add digital delivery, email Graham Aberdein at [office@canadianmennonite.org](mailto:office@canadianmennonite.org).

Whether you read the magazine, visit our website or follow us on social media, *Canadian Mennonite* is grateful that you connect with our national church family through the magazine.

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

Hebrews 10: 24-25

### Canadian Mennonite in 2021

- 26 issues
- 130 stories and photos from Manitoba
- 1,005 articles about the church in Canada and beyond
- 5,500 followers on social media
- 9,500 subscribers
- 200,000 website visitors



### Ways to connect

- **Subscribe** to get the magazine by mail, email or both. 26 issues per year (22 print plus 4 digital-only).
- **Sign up** for *CM Now*, a free, bi-weekly email with links to recent stories.
- **Write** letters or web comments in response to articles.
- **Follow** us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

### Like to take photos?

Individuals are welcome to submit photos and captions from church events, for possible publication.

### Submissions

**General:** [submissions@canadianmennonite.org](mailto:submissions@canadianmennonite.org)

**Readers Write:** [letters@canadianmennonite.org](mailto:letters@canadianmennonite.org)

**Obituaries:** [obituaries@canadianmennonite.org](mailto:obituaries@canadianmennonite.org)

**Events:** [calendar@canadianmennonite.org](mailto:calendar@canadianmennonite.org)

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



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



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@canadianmennonite



## CMU Mission

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

## 2021-22 Enrolment

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

**673** Total students

**616** Undergraduate

**56** Graduate

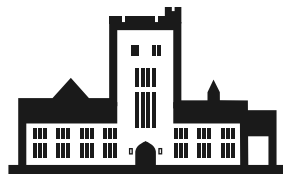
## 264 FTE Menno Simons College

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

**856 Total CMU FTE**

## CMU Report to the Community

View the report and listen to President Cheryl Pauls give glimpses into our financial story by visiting:  
[cmu.ca/communityreport](http://cmu.ca/communityreport).



## Why CMU?

Teaching is exceptional  
Faith & community matter  
Learning & career connect  
Professors know you

*"Coming to CMU has been a big blessing for me. I have experienced tremendous growth in my life, not only musically and academically, but also spiritually and emotionally... I am very thankful to be part of this community, where staff and faculty show genuine care for us."*

– Tania Mulki



## Greetings to Mennonite Church Manitoba from Canadian Mennonite University

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

**Biochemistry I: Biomolecules and Metabolic Energy** | Dr. Candice Viddal | Studying the structure and function of biomolecules, including proteins, carbohydrates, nucleic acids, and lipids.

**Business and Organizational Communications** | James Magnus-Johnston | Studying the oral and written communications used in business and organizational settings. Topics include methods of logic, analysis, presentation, and mechanics of written and oral communication.

**Coaching Theory and Practice** | Jayme Menzies | Preparing students for certification in the National Coaching Certification Program by examining the philosophical, psychological, ethical, and technical significance for coaching.

**Economics of Development** | Dr. Jerry Buckland | Introducing neoclassical and alternative economic theories relevant to understanding various aspects of development at local, national, and international levels.

**Journalism and Peacebuilding** | David Balzer | Investigating what is possible when journalism practice is informed by nonviolent responses to conflict by drawing on a growing scholarly and practitioner-based dialogue that is known as peace journalism.

**Psychology of Health and Illness** | Dr. Heather Campbell-Enns | Examining the psychological factors involved in promoting and maintaining health, the development of illness, and the treatment of illness.

**The Problem of Evil in Biblical Perspective** | Pierre Gilbert | Examining the major responses to moral, amoral, and metaphysical evil offered in various religious and philosophical traditions, through the perspective of biblical theology.

**Vocation, Meaning, and Work** | Dr. Christine Kampen-Robinson | Uncovering the meaning of "work" and "career" in Christian contexts, and as a domain of reflective practice that can inform our life's choices and their meanings.

To read CMU stories throughout the year, sign-up for our monthly **Through this Place** e-newsletter at [cmu.ca/newsletter](http://cmu.ca/newsletter).



**cmu.ca**





# 2021 COMMUNITY REPORT

## THANK YOU

Eden Health Care Services would like to thank the many organizations, businesses, and individuals for all of the work and support they have provided to Eden over this last unprecedented year. Your guidance, prayers, and hard work have helped to provide needed mental health care support to many individuals, couples, and families in southern Manitoba.

Thank you to our **OWNERSHIP GROUP**:

- Mennonite Church Manitoba
- Mennonite Brethren Church of Manitoba
- Sommerfeld Churches of Manitoba
- Evangelical Mennonite Churches of Manitoba
- Evangelical Mennonite Mission Churches of Manitoba
- Christian Mennonite Conference
- Old Colony Church
- Reinland Mennonite Church

Thank you to our **CHURCH APPOINTED** and **COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBERS** for your time, wisdom, and support.

Thank you to our **PARTNERS/FUNDERS** and our individual and corporate **DONORS** who provide financial support through the Eden Foundation and their events including:

- Head for the Hills
- Tractor Trek
- Ride for Recovery of Hope
- Longest Night Run 2021
- Valley Fiber/Goldenwest Giving Campaign

And last but not least, a big thank you to our **DEDICATED STAFF** of professionals who have worked tirelessly through the pandemic. Your commitment and ability to adapt to our ever-changing world has not gone unnoticed.

## OPPORTUNITIES

If you are someone you know has a passion for people and mental health care and is looking for ways to get involved with Eden, we have many opportunities to serve including:

### VOLUNTEER

Eden volunteers play a vital role in our programs and services. As a volunteer, not only will you enrich the lives of others, but your life will also be enriched by helping individuals and learning more about mental illness.

Volunteer opportunities currently include:

- **Board Members** | Opportunities for new board members to help shape the future of mental health services in Manitoba
- **Event Assistance** | Provide on-site help throughout the year at fundraising events put on by the Eden Foundation
- **Eden Mental Health Centre Volunteers**
  - Community Friends
  - Entertainment/Presentations
  - Chapel Leaders & Accompanists
  - Volunteer Drivers
  - Therapy Dog Program
  - Community Choices Program
  - Various Support Roles

Visit [our website](#) or call 204-325-3253 for more information about Eden's volunteer opportunities.

### EMPLOYMENT

Eden's group of mental health care services is currently looking for nurses, counsellors, social workers, employment facilitators, and psychiatrists. Visit [our website](#) or contact our Human Resources department to find out more about these employment opportunities.

### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

To keep our mission of providing best practice mental health services in an accessible way as possible, please consider supporting the Eden Foundation. It provides critical support for the Recovery of Hope Sliding Fee Scale Program, housing suite renovations, volunteer services, employment support services, the development of the Steinbach and Winnipeg hubs, and more. For more information about the Eden Foundation or to make an online donation, [please visit our website](#).

### CARE PROGRAM

Consider having your church join Recovery of Hope's CARE program. This program offers churches the opportunity to partner with Eden's counselling agency to help provide counselling services at a reduced rate to their church members. For more information about this program, please visit [our website](#).

# Inter- Mennonite Chaplaincy Assoc.

Inter-Mennonite Chaplaincy Association (IMCA) is a partnership of three Mennonite conferences (MCM, EMMC and EMC) which provides an Anabaptist presence and chaplain for students, faculty and staff at the University of Manitoba Fort Garry campus. I have had the privilege of serving as the IMCA chaplain since 2003.

For decades, the IMCA ministry was based in a space on the lower level of the University Centre referred to by students as the “Menno Office”. There, students from many backgrounds gathered together in person to find support and encouragement through meaningful friendships and conversations as well as opportunities for worship and discussions that explore the intersection of faith and life.

In March of 2020, with the loss of our meeting space due to fire damage and with COVID restrictions preventing students from gathering on campus, IMCA adapted its ministry quickly and creatively to an online format.

For the past two years we have continued to engage with and create opportunities for students to connect using various online formats. “Discord” has served as the primary on-line platform to host the “E-Menno Office”. Last spring, students put together a video in which they invited new students to come and join them in the “E-Menno Office”. We are grateful for the technology that has enabled us to maintain a vital and vibrant ministry, including weekly topical “Menno Talk” discussions.

With the return of a limited number of students to campus last fall we had the opportunity for some in person “Pop-up Menno Office” visits with individuals or small groups on campus. I also met in person with students off campus and maintained contact with students, faculty and staff through email, text messaging and phone calls.

With the majority of students still learning remotely last term, we assembled “Body, mind and spirit care packages” for students as a tangible expression of love and support. These were distributed in November and December before the latest restrictions.

As part of the University of Manitoba Spiritual Care Team, I have continued to connect with colleagues from other faith groups that serve the university community. I am excited to report that work is in progress to create a new space for the Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care offices in the University Centre. This will include a physical space for the Menno Office. It is estimated to be ready for occupancy this spring.

As we wait in anticipation for new space and for a lifting of restrictions that will allow students to return to campus, we remain ever grateful for your prayers and ongoing partnership as we continue to respond faithfully and creatively to the challenges and opportunities before us.

In Christ  
Rev. Mark von Kampen  
Campus Chaplain  
University of Manitoba  
mvonkampen@gmail.com  
mennooffice.ca

# MCC Manitoba 2021 | Report to MCM Gathering

We live in extraordinary times. This could arguably be said of almost any year, but as we approach the two-year anniversary of the pandemic, it feels especially poignant.

In 2021, each of us adjusted, scaled, and reworked our plans to accommodate the changing public health landscape. And while at MCC it was no different, we sought out ways to continue ministries with churches and volunteers, through local partnerships around the world and local programs in Manitoba.

**We found new ways to connect locally** with congregations, schools and communities using online platforms to share sermons, presentations, and coordinate events.

With your support, youth were given opportunities to develop employment skills at Sam's Place, refugee families were welcomed to Manitoba, webinars and workshops equipped local communities to respond to domestic violence, and collaboration with local partners continued in efforts to learn from and reconcile with Indigenous neighbours. We also celebrated the launch of *Germinating Conversations: Food, Faith, Farming and the Land*, offering a peacebuilding process for difficult conversations of all kinds.

In trying times, we are especially humbled by dedicated volunteers and staff in Thrift and Material Resources. Thrift shops have continued faithful support of MCC throughout the year, despite shared and unique pandemic-related challenges in each shop's context. In Material Resources, we held a successful online quilt sale and participated in the launch of MCC's new dignity kit.

**On a global scale**, MCC continued relief, development and peace work in more than 45 countries. Relief highlights include overwhelming responses to the Haiti earthquake and humanitarian crisis in the Tigray region of Ethiopia. We were able to respond swiftly in Haiti, relying on long-term relationships with local partners to assess the greatest needs and reach vulnerable people in remote communities safely. In Ethiopia, we worked with the local church to get food assistance to Tigray before the region was closed off to aid. Development continued through food, livelihoods, water, health and education projects. In places like Democratic Republic of Congo, we're providing rainwater catchment systems and latrines to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.



**Luis Norberto Mosquera dries cacao seeds at his farm in the Lower San Juan region of Chocó, Colombia in 2018. He received technical assistance in cultivating and processing cacao and his farm is now used as a model for other farmers in the project.**  
(Growing Hope Globally photo/Alex Morse)

We continue to weave peacebuilding into all that we do. Like in Colombia, where our local church partner upholds a strong peace witness by maintaining autonomy from both government agencies and armed groups, offering agricultural trainings and purchasing crops from farmers in the Chocó region — where conflict, armed groups and illicit activities are daily obstacles to community wellbeing.

As we reflect, we recognize that, despite a turbulent year, you have continued to faithfully partner with and support MCC, and together our mission—to share God's love and compassion for all in the name of Christ—continues. Thanks be to God!

As 2022 begins, we pray that you will join us in hope and rest in the words of Jesus in John 15:4-5:

**Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.**

Thank you for making this work possible through your abundant prayer support, monetary gifts, volunteer and fundraising efforts! May you experience peace as we abide in the love of God.

  
DARRYL LOEWEN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

  
SIMONE THIESSEN  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR





# Mennonite Collegiate Institute

## Education Rooted in Faith

The global COVID-19 pandemic cast a menacing shadow over the past year at MCI. We were forced to lay aside or reinvent many treasured traditions. The year has underscored the values of gratitude, faith and care for our neighbours. Although we grieved the inability to be a school community in many familiar ways, we learned to be grateful for the ways we could come together to learn, grow and enjoy each other. We learned to recognize Christ with us in the struggle. Amid lament, we found hope and the courage to reach out to others in our community and beyond.



### STAFFING

Staff demonstrated exceptional professionalism & creativity to offer the most fulfilling school experience possible.



### DONOR SUPPORT

Thank you to our donors who helped MCI post a modest surplus for the 2nd consecutive year.



### ENROLMENT

Over 40% of our students are new to campus this year. Last year students from 6 different nations studied with us.

Here are just a few of our highlights from the year: In June, we hosted a week-long celebration of our graduates; including a Grad Chapel for students, four days of 'outdoor-ed', and an outdoor service with parents on campus. The Christian Life Retreat, held every September, was completely revised this year. A brand-new format provided traditional outcomes – tons of fun, heart-felt worship, many new friendships, and a cohesive community. In November, our choir had the opportunity to record *Hallelujah Chorus* in collaboration with The Messiah Project and Toronto Symphony Orchestra.

**What makes MCI unique?** It is hard to put your finger on it, but it comes down to the quality of relationships found in a Christ-centered community. We're a school that chooses to seek the God-given potential of each student.

**Please pray for MCI as we seek to continue our mission shaping young people for lives of service and leadership in God's Kingdom.**



## Mennonite Disaster Service Canada

## REPORT

## MDS Canada 2021: Faith in Action, Caring Relationships

*"It was nothing short of a miracle. It never would have happened without MDS. It's just so unreal. I don't know how to thank MDS. It's amazing how people we don't know came to help us. It's God sent, that's all I know."*

That's what Diane Rice of Triton, Newfoundland said after MDS Canada, together with local volunteers in that community, rebuilt her home that was destroyed by fire.

Her comment reminds me of why MDS Canada exists—volunteers who are sent by God to be the hands and feet of Jesus when people are hurting and need help.

Although 2021 was a hard year for us—the pandemic curtailed most of our responses in this country and prevented Canadians from going to the U.S. to volunteer—it couldn't stop us from

doing what we could to help people impacted by disasters. Despite the pandemic, and the restrictions it imposed, we still responded to people in need.

**In Ontario**, we worked with MCC to promote reconciliation with Indigenous people by providing volunteers to renovate the MCC Indigenous Neighbours office in Timmins. We also worked with MennoHomes, an organization that provides affordable housing in Kitchener, to renovate a

derelict house into a home for a Syrian refugee family. In Barry's Bay we were able to renovate a house to accommodate a family with a disabled child, creating a safe, sterile, and temperature-controlled space.

**In B.C.**, we learned you can be off the grid but not out of God's plan when it comes to rebuilding a house. That's what happened after a fire destroyed the home of Cliff and Lydia Trudeau at Cuisson Lake. Rebuilding their house was challenging, since they live in a remote part of the province. With some creative thinking on the part of volunteers, along with energetic ingenuity and lots of prayer, the house was completed in August.

Also in B.C., volunteers responded to needs in Princeton, where about 300 families had their homes damaged or destroyed by flooding.

**In Saskatchewan**, we renovated the office and home of the director at the Westbank Bible Camp. Said the director about the volunteers: "They showed up with a servant attitude and posture, always asking what they could do for us, how they could serve us," he said. "It was phenomenal. They had such servant hearts."

Also in Saskatchewan, weather was the big story this year. Drought affected farmers in the province, hitting livestock farmers the hardest. Many don't have enough hay for their animals in winter. Together with the MDS

Ontario Unit, we created MDS Hay West, a way for farmers in Ontario—who enjoyed good growing weather—to send donated hay to Saskatchewan. Best of all, it was a way for farmers in Ontario to say thanks. It was nine years ago that farmers in Saskatchewan sent Hay East to them when drought was bad in that province.

**In Newfoundland**, MDS Canada supplied the funds and local people in Triton provided the volunteers to build a new

house for Diane and Reginald Rice after fire destroyed their home.

**Across Canada, we responded through the Spirit of MDS Fund.** Through the fund, we provided 81 grants worth \$206,900 to churches involved in frontline service to people impacted by the pandemic.

At MDS in Canada our goal is to use our core values of faith in action and caring relationships to be a witness to God's love for the world. We invite you to consider volunteering with us and joining us in praying for God's continued blessing on our work.

—Ross Penner, Director of Canadian Operations



Diane and Reginald Rice



**Mennonite  
Disaster  
Service**

[www.mds.org](http://www.mds.org)

**MDS Canada**  
200-600 Shaftesbury Blvd.  
Winnipeg, MB Canada R3P 2J1  
204-261-1274  
toll-free 866-261-1274  
[mdscanada@mds.org](mailto:mdscanada@mds.org)



Dear Mennonite Church Manitoba delegates,

As a “related” organization, it is our pleasure to partner with you all as individuals and congregations to train the next generation to hear God’s call. Westgate Mennonite Collegiate is a Christian School grounded in the Anabaptist tradition. It is the mission of the school to provide a well-rounded education, which will inspire and empower students to live as people of God.

The school has 310 students enrolled, with one class of Grade 6, three classes of Grade 9, and two classes of Grades 7, 8, 10, 11 and 12. Our enrolment campaign is in full swing and families of our supporting churches are invited to consider Westgate for the 2022-2023 academic year.

In-class instruction was interrupted intermittently last year as the province moved some schools, including ours, to periods of remote learning. Our band and choral programs were hampered by restrictions, all intra-school athletics were suspended, and our dramas and concerts could be performed only virtually. However, school appears more typical this year. Singing and playing wind instruments are permissible, albeit with masks and horn covers in use. Our volleyball teams enjoyed terrific results, with our small school winning the Varsity Boys AAAA Volleyball Championships. Early plans for a school musical are in the works. God willing, we hope that we will be able to resume our camping trips for students after June exams, and we hope to hold graduation June 28, 2022.

### Nurturing Faith

Our chapel theme this year is “New Beginnings”, anchored by Isaiah 43:19, where God says... *See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.*

We know coming out of the pandemic that the reign of God continues. God will do a new thing! We are invited to perceive it, to see it and to walk with God and one another in the ways of life, hope and perseverance. We trust this is the message we can help guide our community to hear, embrace and live this school year.



We are grateful to God for the unique opportunity we have to serve both the Mennonite Churches in Winnipeg and many other families who choose to attend Westgate. About 40% of the families are members from our churches. One quarter of the student body comes from various other denominations and many others from no faith community. It is a serious responsibility and a privilege to introduce these students to the call of discipleship and the love of God.

We request your prayer and student support of this important church work for our youth. We see ourselves as an extension of the churches and desire to work together to train our youth.

Submitted by: Paul Klassen – Board Chairperson (Charleswood Mennonite Church)  
Bob Hummelt – Principal (Sargent Avenue Mennonite Church)

The following MCM congregations are supporting congregations of WMC:

Home Street, Bethel, Hope, Charleswood, North Kildonan, Fort Garry, First, Springstein, Douglas, Springfield, Jubilee, Sargent and Sterling.

# Listing of MCM Staff and Board of Directors

## Office:

600 Shaftesbury Blvd. Winnipeg, MB R3P 0M4

Phone: 204-896-1616, fax: 832-7804

Website: [www.mennochurch.mb.ca](http://www.mennochurch.mb.ca)

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Michael Pahl – *Executive Minister*

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

Darryl Neustaedter Barg – *Associate Director of Communications*

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Zachary Entz – *Financial Services Assistant*

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Naomi Ewert – *Administrative Assistant*

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## Leadership Ministries:

Rick Neufeld – *Director of Leadership Ministries*

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Laura Funk – *Spiritual Director in Residence (May 2021–April 2022)*

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

## Congregational Ministries

Kathy Giesbrecht – *Director of Congregational Ministries*

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## Mission Ministries

Melanie Neufeld – *Director of Mission Engagement*

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

## Camps with Meaning

Dorothy Fontaine – *Director of Camps with Meaning*

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

Janet Peters – *Associate Program Director for Camps*

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Elisabeth Franz-Warkentin – *Administrative Assistant*

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

## Camp Assiniboia

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

David Hogue, *Camp Manager*

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Linda and Paul Dueck, *Guest Group Coordinators*

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

Lauren Gervais, *Food Services Coordinator*

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

## Camp Koinonia

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

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

## Board of Directors

Gerald Gerbrandt, *Moderator*, Winnipeg

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

Cheryl Braun, East

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

Andrea Hildebrand, South

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Richard Klassen, Winnipeg

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Don Rempel Boschmann, Winnipeg

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Karen Tiessen, West

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Isaac Schlegel, Young Adult

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Evelyn Rempel Petkau, South

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

# MCM Staff Photo Directory



Zachary Entz  
*Financial Services Assistant*



Naomi Ewert  
*Administrative Assistant*



Dorothy Fontaine  
*Director of Camps with  
Meaning*



Elisabeth Franz-Warkentin  
*CwM Admin Assistant*



Kathy Giesbrecht  
*Dir. of Congregational  
Ministries*



Rick Neufeld  
*Dir. of Leadership Ministries*



Darryl Neustaedter Barg  
*Assoc. Dir. of Communications*



Michael Pahl  
*Executive Minister*



Janet Peters  
*CwM Assoc. Program Director*



Laura Funk  
*Spiritual Director in Residence  
May 2021 - April 2022*

# MCM Staff Photo Directory cont.

## Camp Assiniboia



David Hogue  
*Camp Manager*



Lauren Gervais  
*Food Service Coordinator*



Linda Dueck  
*Guest Group Coordinator*



Paul Dueck  
*Guest Group Coordinator*



# MCM Board Photo Directory



Cheryl Braun



Gerald Gerbrandt



Andrea Hildebrand



Isaac Hildebrand Schlegel



Richard Klassen



Karen Tiessen



Don Rempel Boschman



Evelyn Rempel Petkau

# Clusters of MCM 2021

## **Eastern Cluster**

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

## **Southern Cluster**

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

## **Western/Northern Cluster**

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

## **Winnipeg Cluster**

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

## **Affiliate Members**

39. Little Flowers Community
40. Matheson Island Community