



Annual Report 2023

94th Annual Delegate Sessions
March 17-18, 2023
Pincher Creek, Alberta



Hope Trust Transition

MCA STAFF

TIM WIEBE-NEUFELD	<i>EXECUTIVE MINISTER</i>
STEVEN GIUGOVAZ	<i>CHURCH ENGAGEMENT MINISTER</i>
RUTH BERGEN BRAUN	<i>COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR</i>
SUZANNE GROSS	<i>BRIDGE BUILDING FACILITATOR</i>
JEFF SCHELLENBERG	<i>MANAGER, CAMP VALAQUA</i>
JON OLFERT	<i>DIRECTOR, CAMP VALAQUA</i>
TANY WARKENTIN	<i>TREASURER</i>

MCA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

BRENDA TIESSEN-WIENS	<i>MODERATOR</i>
PETER SANG	<i>VICE MODERATOR</i>
WAYNE JANZ	<i>FINANCE CHAIR</i>
ELIZABETH WALL	<i>SECRETARY</i>
TIM WIEBE-NEUFELD	<i>EXECUTIVE MINISTER</i>

GENERAL COUNCIL

JAN WILHELM	<i>NOMINATING</i>
DOUG WIEBE	<i>PERSONNEL</i>
DARREL HEIDEBRECHT	<i>CAMP VALAQUA</i>
KAREN JANZ	<i>COMMUNITY BUILDING & PROGRAM</i>
VINCE FRIESEN	<i>MISSION & SERVICE</i>
ANNA-LISA SALO	<i>CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP</i>
MARGARET KRUGER-HARDER	<i>REGIONAL CHURCH REP TO JOINT COUNCIL</i>

JOINT COUNCIL

BRENDA TIESSEN-WIENS	<i>MODERATOR</i>
MARGARET KRUGER-HARDER	<i>REGIONAL CHURCH REP TO JOINT COUNCIL</i>



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Roberts Rules of Order

Mennonite Church Alberta (MCA) follows Robert's Rules of Order to maintain courteous and orderly discussion and to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to speak.

1. All motions will be moved and seconded, followed by discussion.
2. The mover has the first privilege of speaking, followed by the seconder. It is preferable that those speaking in opposition to the motion will alternate with those speaking for the motion.
3. Each speaker to a motion will be limited to two (2) minutes. Speakers may speak a second time, but only after everyone has had an opportunity to speak once.
4. If no one wishes to speak against a motion, the Moderator will call for the vote.
5. Amendments require a mover and seconder. An amendment can be amended after it has been approved. Only one amendment or motion may be considered at a time.
6. The order of presentation of the resolutions will be decided by the MCA Executive.
7. Delegates may refer to the Moderator on points of privilege or information.
8. It is the privilege of any delegate to move the previous question if they consider that the discussion has been prolonged. However, a delegate will not be allowed to move the previous question while speaking to a motion, thus in effect ending the discussion.
9. Officials will be given time to make necessary explanations.
10. Guests have the privilege of the floor, but do not have voting privileges.
11. Ordinary resolutions require a 50% plus one of the majority of votes cast by eligible delegates. Special resolutions require 75% of those entitled to vote and present in person.



Agenda

Friday, March 17

7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Opening of sessions

Opening words
Introduction of *Springridge Mennonite Church*
Guest Speaker - Joe Heikman
Undoing and Remaking
Presentation of Nominees
Milestones
Closing Worship

Saturday, March 18

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Opening & Worship

9:00 AM - 9:55 AM

Call to Worship
Sharing and Praying – Holyrood/Trinity
Scripture Reading: Isaiah 43:1-3a
Guest Speaker - Joe Heikman
The darkness of the tomb

Break

9:55 AM - 10:10 AM

Business Session 1

10:10 AM - 11:15 AM

Introduction of Guests
Resolution #1 - March 19, 2022 Minutes
Year in Review
Resolution #2 - 2022 Financial Review
Report Book - Q&A Time
Presentation of 2023 Budget
Mennonite Church Canada sharing
Sharing from MC Saskatchewan

Break-out Sessions

11:15 AM - 12 noon

Church Engagement/Communications
Bridge Building
MC Canada Indigenous Relations
Q & A with Joe Heikman



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Lunch	12 noon - 1:00 PM
Break-out Sessions	1:00 PM - 1:45 PM
Camp Valaqua	
Mission and Service	
MCA Executive & Finance	
MC Canada International Witness	
Worship	
Offering & Hymn	1:45 PM - 2:25 PM
Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 12:6-10	
Guest Speaker - Joe Heikman	
<i>The darkness of the womb</i>	
Break	2:25 PM - 2:40 PM
Business Session 2	2:40 PM - 4:00 PM
Sharing from Break-out sessions	
Round Table Discussions	
Resolution #3 - 2023 Budget	
Resolution #4 - 2023 Auditors	
Resolution #5 - Nomination	
Commissioning of Volunteers	
Closing of Sessions	

Mennonite Church Alberta Annual Delegate Sessions 2022 Minutes

Saturday, March 19, 2022

Eighty-two people were in attendance, including staff, guests, and visitors. Forty-six delegates represented eleven churches.

Connect to Meeting & Pre-Meeting Visiting 9:00 AM

1. Opening & Worship 9:30 AM

Opening/Welcome - Brenda Tiessen-Wiens

Parliamentarian: Paul Neufeldt

Resolutions Committee: Debbie Baergen, Linden Willms

Condolences to the friends and family of Gwen Wellington, who passed away recently.

Introduction of Guests:

- Doug Klassen, Mennonite Church Canada
- Josh Wallace, Mennonite Church Saskatchewan
- Sandy Koop-Harder and Reynold Friesen, Canadian Mennonite University
- Alex Tiessen, RJC High School
- Ginny Hostetler and Tobi Tiessen, Jessica Evans (Alberta Correspondent), *Canadian Mennonite Magazine*
- Orlando Vasquez and Donita Wiebe-Neufeld, Mennonite Central Committee Alberta
- Marguerite Jack, Mennonite Mutual Insurance

Sharing by First Mennonite Church Calgary - Erv Thiessen and Betty Janssen, Prayer by Ryan Dueck

Prayer for MCA Congregations - Caleb Kowalko

Sandy Koop Harder, CMU, Greetings and Worship video by CMU Singers

2. Business Session 10:10 AM

Approval of Minutes from March 20, 2021 ADS

Resolution #1. Be it resolved that MCA approve the minutes from the March 20, 2021 Annual Delegate Sessions, as presented in the Report Book.

Moved: Elizabeth Wall (Edmonton First)

Seconded: Gladys Heidebrecht (Foothills).

Passed.



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Introduction of Nominees - Gladys Heidebrecht

Executive:

Moderator Brenda Tiessen-Wiens (3rd term) 2024

Vice Moderator Peter Sang (1st term) 2023

Finance Chair Nominee needed 2024

Personnel:

Doug Wiebe (2nd term) 2024

Finance Committee:

Nominee needed 2023

Nominee needed 2024

Congregational Leadership:

Caleb Kowalko (1st term) 2024

Community Building and Program:

Karen Janz (3rd term) 2024

Nominee needed 2023

Mission & Service:

Jake Froese (3rd term) 2024

William Riek Tut (3rd term) 2024

Camp Valaqua:

Albert Goerzen (3rd term) 2024

Kathryn Friesen (2nd term) 2024

Nominating:

Charlene Retzlaff (Foothills) (1st term) 2023

Jan Wilhelm (Edmonton First) (1st term) 2024

Representatives:

CMU Board: Prairie Regions Representative (3-yr term) Reece Zablocki (1st term) 2024

Thanks to all who are stepping away from their time of service:

Verna Froese (Nominating), Kate Janzen (Community Building & Program), Christine Koop (Finance), Werner De Jong (Congregational Leadership), Wayne Janz (Finance & Executive), and Gladys Heidebrecht (Nominating).

Thanks to those who have agreed to accept a new nomination, those who continue to serve, and all who considered accepting a nomination even if they decided not to.

Mennonite Church Alberta Year in Review - Ruth Bergen Braun

MC Saskatchewan Greetings - Josh Wallace, Church Engagement Minister and Interim Executive Minister

MC Canada Video & Update - Doug Klassen, Executive Minister, MC Canada; Joani Neufeldt, Amplify! youth gathering 2022

Joint Council Representative - Margaret Kruger-Harder

Coffee 11:03-11:10 am

RJC High School - Greetings & Worship video - Alex Tiessen

North Edmonton Ministry discussion - Brenda Tiessen-Wiens

Suzanne Gross' term as Interim Worker has been extended to the end of June.

Questions for Breakout Room Discussion:

- 1) What are your thoughts about re-focusing NEM towards a resource for your congregation in growing interfaith relationships through things such as study sessions on how to talk to people of other faiths, dialogue events, or interfaith service projects (e.g. Thrift Store, refugee sponsorship, blanket making...)?
- 2) What kinds of interfaith or intercultural work have people in your congregation been involved in? In what ways could you envision this position being of support?
- 3) What resources would be helpful for your congregation in your interfaith/intercultural connections? (e.g. networks or discussion groups, training or facilitating workshops, assistance in connecting with local interfaith groups...)

Feedback from Workshops

Resolution #5. Be it resolved that the *MCA Constitution and Bylaws Report of Executive and General Council Activities* as found in the Report Book be accepted. This acceptance rescinds all previous versions and affirms that MCA Constitution and Bylaws dated November 11, 2021 are in full effect as of December 10, 2021.

Moved: Peter Sang (Calgary Chin Christian Church)

Seconded: Anna-Lisa Salo (Bergthal).

Passed.

Presentation and Approval of 2021 Financial Statements - Wayne Janz

Resolution 2. Be it resolved that MCA adopt the 2021 audited financial statements as distributed.

Moved: Wayne Janz (Calgary First)

Seconded: Doug Wiebe (Lethbridge).

Passed.

Holyrood Request for Support for an Intentional Interim Pastor - Tim Wiebe-Neufeld, MCA Executive Minister; Margot Brunn, Holyrood Discernment Committee

Resolution #6. Be it resolved that MCA Executive be authorized to negotiate an agreement with Holyrood Mennonite Church to provide financial assistance up to a maximum of \$90,000 toward the hiring of an Intentional Interim Pastor.

Moved: Wayne Janz (Calgary First)

Seconded: Elizabeth Wall (Edmonton First).

Discussion: Q: How long a period? A: 1.5 years from hiring of Intentional Interim Pastor.

Q: Foothills found sessions with Betty Pries from Credence & Co. to be helpful; would that kind of thing be included? A: This proposal provides maximum parameters; specifics will be worked out in more detail in due time.

In Africa, when a drum is beaten, all come running. It did not seem that MCA congregations had done that when Holyrood needed help, highlighting the importance of good communication and connections with those willing to help.

Passed.

Announcements - Welcome to Steven Giugovaz, Church Engagement Minister; Worship service tomorrow 11 a.m.; Offering: To support the ministries we share as MCA visit <https://mcab.ca/giving>;

Opportunity to meet with MCC in a breakout room during lunch. To donate toward MCC's emergency response in the Ukraine visit <https://mcccanada.ca/learn/what/relief/ukraine>

3. Lunch Break 12:23-1:05 pm

Breakout Rooms with MCC and visiting

4. Afternoon Business & Worship Session

Worship video by CMU Singers

Approval of Nominations

Resolution #4. Be it resolved that MCA approve the Nominations as presented.

Moved: Gladys Heidebrecht (Foothills)

Seconded: Margaret Kruger-Harder (Foothills).

Passed.

Commissioning of Volunteers - Tim Wiebe-Neufeld

Introducing E3 Y3: Encountering, Embracing, Embodying Christ in the World

Tim Wiebe-Neufeld / E3 Reference Group - Laura Wiebe, Debbie Baergen, Steven Giugovaz, Ruth Bergen Braun

Rebecca Janzen - Mennonite World Conference Global Youth Summit

Werner & Joanne De Jong - MC Canada International Witness

Tom & Christine Poovong - MC Canada International Witness

George & Tobia Veith - MC Canada International Witness

Worship video by RJC High School Singers

Invitation to MC Canada Gathering 2022

Thanks

5. Closing of Session - Prayer by Brenda Tiessen-Wiens - Session closed 2:20 pm

Post-Meeting Visiting

2023 MCA Resolutions

1. Be it resolved that MCA approve the minutes from the March 19, 2022 Annual Delegate Sessions, as presented in the Report Book.
2. Be it resolved that MCA adopt the 2022 financial review, as presented, in lieu of a formal audit as per the MCA Constitution and Bylaws.
3. Be it resolved that MCA adopt the 2023 budget, as presented in the Report Book.
4. Be it resolved that MCA appoint Retzlaff and Wong as auditors for 2023.
5. Be it resolved that MCA approve the Nominations, as presented.



Hope Trust Transition



Brenda Tiessen-Wiens

MODERATOR

“Emerging” seems to be a theme that I’ve been hearing recently, particularly as it relates to finding our footing following the upheaval of the pandemic, the ripple effect of global conflicts, and the economic ups and downs that seem to have become a part of life. As individuals, congregations, and larger faith communities, we find ourselves reflecting on what emerging into new ways of being and living looks like, in ways that take into account some of the dispiriting realities around us. At the same time, we re-root ourselves and remember the hope we have that, through the Spirit, “in all things God works for the good of those who trust in God.”

As I reflect on the past year, there are a number of times that the Spirit’s presence seemed particularly close:

Over the last two years, significant time was spent on program transitions: first, with creating the Church Engagement position, and then from there into re-visioning North Edmonton Ministry as Bridge Building. This discernment involved a lot of thought, prayer, discussion and “homework time” with General Council and Executive, with a number of individuals going over and above in their efforts. It’s been a pleasure to see Steven and Suzanne’s calling to serve in these areas and to hear them identify opportunities that they see in our MCA community.

In my role as moderator, I’m privileged to be involved in several staff annual reviews. As we set aside time to reflect, I’m reminded how important it is to take time to listen to staff, to walk through challenges and joys together and to identify areas of focus for the coming year. The glimpses into their daily encounters with people in our congregations are refreshing and encouraging.

Being a part of the MC Canada Gathering in Edmonton last summer was a rich experience. It was heart-warming to worship, explore and grow together with our nationwide church. Seeing Edmonton folks in action, embracing and fulfilling their role as hosts was a joy!



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At our September meeting, General Council made the decision to support two students from the South Sudanese community who are living in refugee camps in Ethiopia, to attend Meserete Kristos Seminary. This was processed relatively quickly because of time constraints, but it was heart-warming to see ESSMC's dreams of leadership training for brothers and sisters in Ethiopia fulfilled.

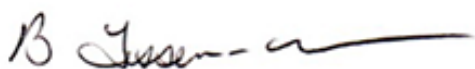
Working together with Holyrood leadership to develop an agreement for providing a loan to support interim pastors was another highlight. This decision was made at MCA's 2022 delegate sessions. Executive and Holyrood leadership will periodically check in with one another throughout the period of this arrangement. I encourage you to seek out people from Holyrood to hear, first-hand, what this support means to them.

Executive also supports committees in their work. We celebrated together when new people came on board in committee positions, worked through tasks together, or served as a sounding board when an extra set of eyes and ears was needed. As I interact with people, I'm sometimes surprised at how much history and background knowledge one can accumulate in what feels like a short time! This work with committee members reminds me of the many different ways that support takes place behind the scenes on an ongoing basis, and how important it is to maintain networks across our community, as we continue to "make history" together.

Executive and General Council worked through a number of items that drew us into conversations with our MC Canada community. We reviewed and affirmed the MC Canada Operating Agreement revisions, the Shared Revenue Agreement, and the Addendum to Ministerial Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedure. We also provided input on revisions to the MC Canada covenant, the Mennonite World Conference Fair Share Agreement, and the MC Canada Climate Action Fund. As each of these items (and more) came up on our agenda, General Council members actively engaged, sharing ideas, perspectives and feedback to help shape responses and actions. Thank you, General Council!

Tim and I were also engaged in several exploratory conversations together with colleagues in MC Saskatchewan. This grew out of conversations about commonalities in our regions, asking the question of what areas of synergy we might share. The focus of discussions has been on assessing strengths and potential areas of sharing resources. Both regions have been clear that the discussion is not about merger, but rather about supporting one another and strengthening our two regions. Tim and I will look for guidance from General Council as we continue these conversations in 2023, and welcome any thoughts you might have.

The ADS is a time of building connections and growing together. May God's presence be experienced as we anticipate seeing one another in Pincher Creek!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "B. Tiessen-Wiens", followed by a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line.

Brenda Tiessen-Wiens, Moderator



Tim Wiebe-Neufeld

EXECUTIVE MINISTER

In Deuteronomy God's followers are given the task, "Remember the long way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness" (8:2). Throughout the Bible we are encouraged to remember what God has done in the past as we trust God's leading into the future.

At times the COVID reality of these past 3 years has felt like a long road of wandering in the wilderness. There have been disappointments, shifts of direction, and challenging times. But through it all we have also seen God's leading. There are so many ways God's spirit of healing and hope has been present:

- Through events that bring people together. While zoom offered a way to connect in the midst of COVID restrictions, this past year brought a return of many in-person events. It was good to be in MCA congregations for worship services, the commissioning of new pastors, and other events. A special highlight was the Gathering of our Mennonite Church Canada faith family in Edmonton this past summer.
- Through the calling of pastoral leadership for Foothills, Holyrood, Bethel, and First Mennonite Edmonton; the calling of volunteers and staff both young and old to the ministry at Camp Valaqua; and the calling of many others in service of congregations and the broader ministries we share.
- Through efforts made towards peace and wholeness of relationship in a world torn by division, injustice, and environmental destruction. MCA's Bridge Building Facilitator is nurturing intercultural and interfaith relationships, while our nationwide church has invested in staff to assist in caring for creation and in reconciliation efforts with Indigenous people.
- Through the living out of the 3rd year of MCA's action plan: Encountering, Embracing, Embodying Christ in the World. As congregations reconnect and reset, many are looking for ways to be more present in their local communities. Globally, International Witness continues to build the church in 15 countries. This includes pastor supports and training in Thailand and Ethiopia. MCA is also funding pastor training for 2 church leaders from South Sudanese refugee camps.



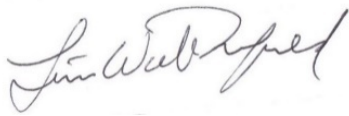
Hope Trust Transition

While the three-year E3 Action Plan will come to a close this March, its focus on what it means to be a follower of Christ will continue to shape us as we seek to be the church God is calling us to be. The coming year will be a time to reflect on who we are as the individuals and congregations that make up the MCA faith community. What is our calling as congregations and as the broader church together? MCA leadership has talked about 3 priority statements that describe the activities we do together as MCA:

Supporting Congregations, Nurturing Connections, and Celebrating Faith in Action

How might we live out these priorities in the months and years ahead?

In the Deuteronomy 8 scripture passage remembering what God has done in the past allows God's followers to confidently trust in God's provision in the future. "For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, a land of olive oil and honey where you will lack nothing" (8:7-8). This assurance gives us much to look forward to as we walk together as the MCA family of faith!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Tim Wiebe-Neufeld". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tim" being more prominent.

Tim Wiebe-Neufeld, Executive Minister

Steven Giugovaz



CHURCH ENGAGEMENT MINISTER

Hospitality. Sincerity. These are the first two words that come to mind when I reflect on my experience visiting with the congregations and individuals that make up our MCA family in my first full year as Church Engagement Minister. Everywhere I went, I was met with open arms and open hearts, and this has helped to make my job much easier. I am so very grateful to all of you for the way you have welcomed me into your lives. It has been such a blessing getting to know and serve you all.

As Church Engagement Minister, I seek to challenge congregations and individuals to consider the ways they engage with the ministries we share; with other congregations of our faith family; and with the people around them. In other words, my role is all about nurturing and fostering connections.

As I began this process, I made a commitment in this first year to prioritize visiting with our congregations, pastors, and ministry leaders to help deepen my own sense of connection with my MCA faith family. This has been an amazing experience for me. I have been blown away by the warm welcome I have received, and by the sincere love and care I have seen in the hearts of those I have had the pleasure of meeting. For this, I want to say thank you to all of you. Not only for the welcome I have received, but for allowing me the opportunity to experience it on a regional level.

Now, as we move into this new year, I am looking forward to deepening my connections with you all. I also seek to be more intentional at facilitating opportunities for our MCA family to deepen our connections with our faith family here in Alberta, Canada and throughout the world.

For example, I have already begun reaching out to individuals who support MCA financially to thank them for their support and to invite them to get together so that I can learn more about their stories and experiences. Through them, I hope to better be able to serve more effectively in helping individuals to connect more deeply and intentionally with the larger body of Christ.

Also, to help foster connections across our MCA congregations, this year MCA is doing a series called “A Window Into...” The plan for this series is to highlight a different congregation every month to help us learn more about who they are and the ways in which God is at work in their church and communities. As I write this, we have so far been blessed to have the opportunity to get to know our Springridge and Foothills family better through this series.

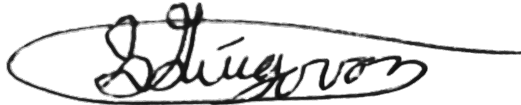


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Please, join me in thanking them for answering the call to help kick-off this series. I look forward to hearing from the rest of our congregations!

These are just a couple of things that I am working on this year to help foster a deeper sense of connection across the individuals, congregations and ministries that make up our MCA family. As someone who has had the opportunity to experience firsthand the love, warmth, and welcome of our MCA family, I am excited to help facilitate ways for others to experience it, too. In this new year, I pray that God will lead us all to experience a deeper connection with each other and the Kingdom work we share.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "S. Giugovaz", enclosed within a horizontal oval shape.

Steven Giugovaz, Church Engagement Minister



Ruth Bergen Braun

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Just as I found it easier to write my long-distance friend a weekly letter than writing a Christmas letter, quarterly reports are easier than annual reports.

The first half of 2022 included numerous projects for MC Canada's Gathering in Edmonton. A greeting video. Videos to promote Amplify, the youth event. Posters. Advertising. I was glad when I could finally drive to Edmonton and GATHER!

Twice a year, spring and fall, Tim, Steven, and I – with help from Jon and Suzanne – create a donor letter which is printed and mailed to previous donors. The fall edition, for the past two years, has included inserts. Those who tag their donations to specific ministries get an insert with more information. After I receive the text, I make it look good, get it printed, assemble the envelopes, checking the spreadsheet from Tany to be sure the right insert gets into the right envelope. This is a big job for all of us. I pray that our words and images resonate with our donors and get them excited about what's happening in MCA.

This fall, I again worked with Debbie Baergen, FMC Edmonton, who is on the E3 Reference group, to create another MCA Advent Calendar. Thank you to those who recorded audio and video clips for that! I hope you followed along.

Tim and I often use the metaphor of ping pong balls to describe the tasks we juggle. The weekly MCA Communiqué is a tennis ball! This newsletter, which I envision to be a mini-magazine, goes out to 207 subscribers every Wednesday at 4 p.m. Hopefully it lands in your inbox. Receiving a thank you email and some positive feedback always feels wonderful and tells me and others that it's read. Thank you to those who wrote A Menno Minute this year. I'm always open to new writers!



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I meet with the other communicators from across MC Canada every second Wednesday morning. We call those meetings NatComm. I look forward to those meetings and I feel like I'm part of a team getting the word out about MC Canada's programs and events. Katie Doke Sawatsky resigned in fall 2022 and Dan Dyck, who was MC Canada Communications before the restructuring, is keeping us in line in the interim. We also occasionally meet with staff from Canadian Mennonite, most recently with Will Braun, the new editor.

I try to keep in contact with the De Jongs and the Poovongs, both International Witness workers with roots here in MCA. As "our" witness workers, I believe we should be able to pray for them specifically.

One of the perks of this position is being part of Anabaptist Communicators, a group that includes communications people who work for various Mennonite organizations – MCC, MDS, different schools, seniors housing in the US. Most recently some from overseas, working for Mennonite World Conference, joined us. I always learn something from meeting with Anabaptist Communicators, whether it's their annual online conference or in the small groups they call Affinity Groups.

As I said in a Menno Minute that I wrote early on in my work with MCA, communication is multi-directional. Please reach out to me if you have an idea, a prayer request for our congregations, or any feedback. Communications@mcab.ca

Ruth Bergen Braun

MCA Communications

MCA Financial Reports

2022 Financial Results

We had planned for a deficit budget in 2022 of \$73,300. We ended with a deficit of \$80,800, \$7,500 deeper in the red than planned. Why was it higher than expected?

First of all, inflation. Inflation caught the whole country by surprise when it soared to over 6%. While we saw its impact mostly on our camp program, other areas of our budget were also affected with higher than expected costs for groceries, fuel, insurance, and office supplies.

The camp program also saw a greater demand for financial support for camper registrations. We allocated over \$5,400 to help children attend summer camp who would not have been able to participate without financial aid. We had planned on \$3,000, but our practice has been to not turn anyone away because money is a barrier for them.

Technology costs played a role in higher-than-expected expenses for the year as well. Over the years, our online presence and email had become a knot of different technologies and service providers to the point where the system had become unreliable. It cost \$9,000 for a hired consultant to untangle the knot.

By the end of 2022, we had spent \$20,000 more than budgeted in total expenses.

The income side of the financial statements was a mixture of news to the upside and the downside. Congregational giving was \$10,700 higher than forecasted. Individual donations to Camp Valaqua were \$30,000 higher than projected. And we received almost double (\$49,000) the budget (\$25,000) of financial support for the International Witness program.

The two biggest income shortfalls of the year were donations for the Bridge Building Ministry and government funding. Donations to the Bridge Building Ministry fell short by \$13,300 of the \$30,000 target, while the camp program did not receive any funding from the Canada Summer Jobs Program. This program helps to subsidize the wages of our camp counsellors. The federal government offered no explanation for not providing the \$30,000 subsidy we had come to expect from previous years.



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We began loaning funds to Holyrood Mennonite Church to support the salaries of their interim pastors as planned at last year's Annual Delegates Session. At the end of 2022, the loaned amount was \$14,400. The loan, combined with the year's deficit has reduced our unrestricted cash reserves by \$100,000. The reserves still stand at a healthy \$294,000 or about 32% of our 2023 proposed expense budget.

As a final word on our 2022 financial results, we acknowledge and express gratitude to all individuals, congregations, and other organizations who generously supported MCA financially throughout the year!

2023 Proposed Budget

The MCA Executive Committee and General Council are proposing a 2023 deficit budget of \$49,000. This is based on projected income of \$849,500 and expenses of \$898,500.

MCA had a large financial deficit last year. It was preceded by two years of significant surpluses (see Year Over Year Income Comparison Report below). Although we are forecasting another deficit budget for this year, it will be \$30,000 smaller than 2022's deficit. Another deficit budget was expected in 2023 when we did our three-year financial look ahead in 2021. We will need to drive to a balanced budget in either 2024 or 2025.

Inflation played a key role in driving our spending estimates in 2023. While costs for groceries, fuel, and other supplies increased, the budget lines that saw the biggest proposed upward jump are salary related. We are proposing an approximately 5% increase in total salaries this year to help our seven staff members keep up with the rising cost of living.

The new revenue sharing agreement enacted with the other regional churches calls on MCA to commit 20% of it's undesignated donations and congregational giving from the previous year to national programs. For 2023, this calculates to \$81,900, up from the \$75,000 sent last year.

As technology is used more and more for communicating, information management, and financial transactions, we increased our online services expenditures from our budgeted \$700 annually to \$2,500.

Expenses from 2022 that are not expected in 2023 include those allocated for attending the Mennonite World Conference and Mennonite Church Canada Assembly, and for audit fees.

In 2022, we increased our efforts in communicating MCA stories and needs, engaging individual donors and congregations, and targeted fundraising. We saw success from these initiatives last year, and are expecting the fruits of these efforts to yield a further rise in donations. Our congregations have told us that they are planning to send \$334,000 to MCA in 2023. We are targeting additional increases in individual giving across all our programs.

Year Over Year Income Comparison (unaudited)
Before Amortization and Depreciation
As of December 31, 2022

	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Budget
Income	\$811,948	\$715,914	\$803,374	\$775,044	\$849,500
Expenses	834,998	620,920	768,540	855,887	898,500
Net Income	-\$23,049	\$94,994	\$34,834	-\$80,842	-\$49,000

Year Over Year Balance Sheet Comparison (unaudited)
As of December 31, 2022

	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Forecast
Assets					
Current Assets					
Unrestricted Fund	\$256,228	\$326,091	\$393,265	\$293,724	\$154,700
Campership Fund	0	6,755	0	0	0
Camp Upgrade Fund	1,111	3,035	18,692	12,614	22,000
Leadership Fund	2,314	1,984	1,984	1,759	1,000
Church Planting Fund	200	0	0	0	0
Youth Leadership Fund	955	0	0	0	0
Total Current Assets	260,808	337,866	413,941	308,098	177,700
Loan Receivable	0	0	0	14,370	90,000
Fixed Assets	813,276	750,007	765,430	739,207	700,000
Total Assets	\$1,074,084	\$1,087,872	\$1,179,371	\$1,047,304	\$967,700
Liabilities and Equity					
Current Liabilities	\$81,699	\$9,143	\$48,423	\$16,068	\$15,000
Equity	992,385	1,078,729	1,130,948	1,031,237	952,700
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$1,074,084	\$1,087,872	\$1,179,371	\$1,047,304	\$967,700

Summary Budget Comparison Statement (unaudited)

Before Amortization and Depreciation

2022 Actual Results as of December 31

	2022 Actual	2022 Budget	2023 Budget
Income			
Church Contributions	\$332,674	\$321,900	\$334,000
Individual Contributions	93,320	80,000	100,000
Witness Relational Funding	44,787	25,000	40,000
Bridge Building Ministry	16,670	30,000	20,000
Camp Income	294,699	301,100	337,400
Other Income	9,565	36,300	18,100
Total Income	\$775,044	\$764,300	\$849,500
Expenses			
Operating Expenses	\$431,017.56	\$427,000.00	\$453,400.00
Camp Expenses	424,869	410,600	445,100
Total Expenses	855,887	837,600	898,500
Net Income	-\$80,842	-\$73,300	-\$49,000

Detailed Budget Comparison Statement (unaudited)

Before Amortization and Depreciation

2022 Actual Results as of December 31

	2022 Actual	2022 Budget	2023 Budget
Income			
Revenue - Church Donations			
Calgary Chin	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,500
Calgary - First	30,000	30,000	30,000
Calgary - Foothills	110,000	100,000	110,000
Calgary - Trinity	12,500	12,500	10,000
Didsbury - Bergthal	6,500	6,500	6,500
Edmonton - Bethel Int'l Church	0	300	300

Edmonton - Christian Life CC	600	600	600
Edmonton - First	102,950	103,000	108,100
Edmonton - Holyrood	5,475	5,500	5,500
Edmonton - South Sudanese	0	500	500
Lethbridge	42,000	42,000	42,000
Pincher Creek - Springridge	19,649	18,000	17,000
Total Church Donations	\$332,674	\$321,900	\$334,000
Individual Donations	76,650	80,000	100,000
Relational Witness Donations	44,787	25,000	40,000
Bridge Building Ministry Income	16,670	30,000	20,000
Snow Camp	2,310	3,000	3,000
Total Missions & Services	4,175	0	800
Total Community Building	0	0	10,900
Total Congregational Leadership	1,510	3,000	3,000
Interest	270	300	400
Other Income	1,300	0	0
Total Camp Valaqua	294,699	301,100	337,400
Total Income	\$775,044	\$764,300	\$849,500
Expenses			
MC Canada – Relational Witness	\$46,962	\$25,000	\$40,000
MC Canada - Operations	75,000	75,000	81,900
MC World Conference	0	7,000	0
MC Canada - Assembly	3,000	3,000	0
Canadian Mennonite University	20,000	20,000	20,000
Rosthern Junior College	12,000	12,000	12,000
Canadian Mennonite magazine	8,694	8,900	9,300
Mennonite Historical Society	1,000	1,000	1,000
Occupancy - Exec Min Office	3,600	3,600	3,600
Liability Insurance	2,818	2,800	2,800
MCA Fundraising	0	1,500	1,500
Office Supplies	6,297	6,500	6,500
Online Services	2,648	700	2,500
Snow Camp & Planning Expenses	944	3,000	3,000

Uncategorized Expenses	3,010	0	0
Executive Committee Expenses	259	1,500	800
Ministerial Salaries and Benefits	153,768	159,800	168,000
Executive Minister Expenses	7,849	7,500	7,500
Church Engagement Minister Expenses	3,302	5,000	4,000
Bridge Building Minister Expenses	705	3,100	3,000
Administration Salaries and Benefits	47,041	46,800	49,000
Communications Expenses	2,298	3,000	3,000
Professional Development -staff	0	4,600	4,600
Professional, Legal, IT Support Fees	8,995	0	1,500
Total Missions & Service Committee	4,694	4,900	11,700
Total Community Building Expense	6,700	7,700	11,600
Audit Fees	7,688	8,500	0
Finance Committee - Other	0	200	200
Total Congregational Leadership Exp.	1,688	4,000	4,000
Personnel Committee	60	200	200
Nominating Committee	0	200	200
Total Camp Valaqua - Operating	424,869	410,600	445,100
Total Expenses	855,887	837,600	898,500
Net Income	-\$80,842	-\$73,300	-\$49,000

Tany Warkentin



TREASURER

It is a pleasure for me to serve our Alberta churches in managing the bookkeeping and finances. Even though I work from home, I am able to connect with other MCA staff, committee members, and with many of you who support our ministries with your donations. This role puts me in a place to see and hear how important our ministries like Camp Valaqua, Bridge Building Ministry, and International Witness are to many of you, as you demonstrate your support through generous contributions which allow this work to continue and grow. What we do with our money often reveals our priorities and values, so I am inspired by the commitment of our Mennonite Church Alberta constituency in supporting ministries that allow God's healing and hope flow through us to the world.

Personnel

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to continue serving Mennonite Church Alberta on the Personnel Committee this past year.

A highlight of this past year was when Mennonite Church Alberta hired Suzanne Gross into the new role of Bridgebuilding Facilitator in September 2022. The Personnel Committee collaborated with the Missions and Service Committee, Tim Wiebe-Neufeld, and Brenda Tiessen-Wiens to create the role description and job posting for this new position, and then on the interviewing and successful hiring of Suzanne. We appreciate the contributions that Suzanne previously made to the North Edmonton Ministry (NEM), and the energy, enthusiasm, and vision she now brings to the role of Bridgebuilding Facilitator for the benefit of all our congregations throughout Alberta.

Respectfully Submitted

Doug Wiebe: Chair – MCA Personnel Committee



Hope Trust Transition

Mission and Service

The Mission and Service Committee of Mennonite Church Alberta has gone through a year of changes and new challenges. Covid has not been as significant this year as it was last year but we have still had most of our meetings via Zoom. As we have committee members living in the Fort MacMurray, Edmonton, Calgary and Lethbridge regions, the Zoom technology has been useful in keeping us connected.

Our committee has seen major changes in the organizational structure of North Edmonton Ministries. As mentioned in our last year's report, Donna Entz retired and Suzanne Gross took up the position on an interim basis. Over the last year, we have been able to develop a new job description for this position, change the name to Bridge Building and arrange for Suzanne Gross's position to move from an interim to a time specific contract. The change of name reflects the intention to allow the program to expand into the rest of the province. Suzanne will also organize a new Advisory Council that will reflect the broader geographical nature of the program. Regarding the organizational structure, Suzanne now reports directly to the Executive Minister. For the specific activities of Bridge Building, please read Suzanne's report.

Mission and Service work has continued with the South Sudanese community in Calgary. Jake Froese, with assistance from Suzanne Gross, has been meeting with members of the South Sudanese Community who are looking at establishing a congregational community. This has proved to be a slow process but Jake and Suzanne have kept working with members of this community with the hope that some formal organization will eventually be established. Jake Froese is also an MCA representative on the Calgary Interfaith Council that brings leaders of different faith groups together.

Mission and Service continues to support the work of Joanne and Werner DeJong in Ethiopia where Werner is teaching at the Meserete Kristos Seminary. MCA has also given financial support to several students who needed assistance in being able to get to MKS for their classes.

Mission and Service has some new challenges for the new year. One area is to determine the relationship between the committee and the new Bridge Building structure. This will be part of a larger review as much of the work done by Suzanne in Bridge Building, Steven in Church Engagement and Tim as Executive Minister is related to the Terms of Reference that govern what Mission and Service is responsible for. Lastly, Mission and Service will be reaching out to congregations to see what type of support can be given to the work of individual churches.

Respectfully Submitted
Vince Friesen
Chair of Mission and Service



Hope Trust Transition

Congregational Leadership Committee (CLC)

The members of the Congregational Leadership Committee (CLC) for 2022 consisted of Tim Wiebe-Neufeld, Ryan Dueck, Caleb Kowalko, and Anna-Lisa Salo. The members of the committee shared the role of Chair. Anna-Lisa served as secretary, Caleb was responsible for signing authority for expenses, and Ryan took care of logistical concerns. CLC met ten times throughout the year. All of the meetings were held via *Zoom*.

In its primary purpose of equipping congregational leaders for their task and working with and supporting the Executive Minister, the members of CLC were kept busy fulfilling the various duties associated with their role within MCA.

1. CLC assisted member congregations with plans or problems in which MCA involvement was considered beneficial. When walking alongside congregations facing difficult decisions or issues, CLC respects confidentiality. CLC processes all issues that surface with the Executive Minister as he connects with and supports the congregations. CLC is committed to responding prayerfully for wisdom and discernment in each case and to treat each situation with compassion and care.

- This past year we spent a large portion of our time navigating allegations of misconduct about an MCA pastor. In keeping with MC Canada policy, an investigation was conducted and no misconduct was found.
- We acknowledged and offered our support for Ken Wellington following Gwen Wellington's death on February 10th. Ken and Gwen were leaders of Love Wins House Church in Cranbrook BC.
- CLC acknowledged the deep concern shared by Ken Tse (Edmonton Christian Life Community Church) and Leng Thang (Calgary Chin Christian Church) whose families and friends continued to be impacted by the violent military responses to protests in their countries of origin and the ongoing effects of COVID.
- CLC walked with Bergthal MC and Holyrood MC as they prayerfully continued to seek discernment for their futures.

2. Walking with congregations and pastors through the process of pastoral call, ordination, evaluation, transfer, termination, credentialing, and de-credentialing is another important aspect of the work of CLC. 2022 was a busy year for pastoral transitions and credentialing. We are grateful for all those who have followed God's call to pastoral ministry and serve with such dedication and passion.

- Bill Christieson accepted the call to pastor at Foothills MC. Bill began serving on February 15th and was commissioned on March 27th.
- An exit interview was held for Craig Janzen Neufeld on June 16th. Craig served at First MC Edmonton.



Hope Trust Transition

- Suzanne Gross accepted the call to serve as half-time interim pastor at Holyrood MC. Suzanne started in August and was commissioned on September 11th.
- A credentialing interview was held with Reuben Tut at Bergthal MC on Sept 28th. An ordination service is planned for May 13, 2023.
- Joon Park accepted the call to serve as half-time interim pastor at Holyrood MC. Joon started in October and was commissioned on October 30th.
- Rachel Siemens accepted the call to serve at First MC Edmonton. Rachel started on November 14th and was commissioned on December 11th.
- Credentialing for Tom and Christine Poovong (Witness workers with MC Canada) is in process.

3. CLC plans a number of events to support and connect pastors and congregational lay leaders.

- The Pastors Council met five times, three in person and twice via *Zoom*.
- CLC promoted and offered financial support for pastors attending CMU's *ReNew* conference held virtually on February 8th.
- CLC promoted *Pastor's Week* at AMBS held from February 21st to 24th.
- The *Spiritual Leaders Day* on July 29th at *Gathering 2022* in Edmonton took the place of the annual *Faith Studies* event.
- A Pastor's retreat was held at Camp Valaqua from November 14th to 16th. The retreat offered ample time for personal sharing, spiritual reflection, rest, and conversation. Many in attendance were new and some were first-time retreatants.

4. CLC reviews applications of congregations wishing to become MCA members or wishing to discontinue their membership in MCA.

- When Ken and Gwen Wellington reached out to MCA regarding their dream of planting a house church. Tim agreed to walk with and support them as their plans developed. Unfortunately, due to the Covid pandemic, their dream of planting a house church never materialized.
- Tim also had general conversations with a couple of other congregations about membership in MCA.

As we reflected upon the year, we noticed several things:

- Pastors are expressing a desire for greater connection with each other.
- There is increasing interest in establishing intercultural relationships.
- There is a growing need to expand how we support pastors.
- It became apparent that we need to update some policies and procedures. In particular, we discussed how to connect with credentialed leaders and what process to follow when they are no longer part of an MCA congregation. Also, MC Canada is currently working together with MC USA making revisions and expanding policies related to pastoral misconduct. We are grateful that this update is happening as we seek to respond to situations like these in the best way possible

- Each situation is unique and while following a set policies and procedures handbook is helpful, it doesn't always tick all the boxes. In our world, issues that face pastors are becoming increasingly complex and often require a facilitator who has the relevant professional training and experience.
- Recognizing the need for ongoing training, CLC has discussed the possibility of MCA providing training for our congregations on abuse prevention so that our congregations may qualify for abuse prevention insurance. The human resources necessary for the upkeep of these policies and procedures is too demanding for all except one or two congregations.

Moving forward, we are hoping to find ways for congregations to overlap programming in helpful ways. Also, are there ways we can access health benefits and medical support for all our ministers? As we continue to listen to the needs of our ministers and congregations, we endeavour to serve in ways that establish mutual trust, accountability, and, above all, a sense of community.

Submitted on behalf of CLC,
Anna-Lisa Salo



Hope Trust Transition

Camp Valaqua Committee

Camp Committee: Darrel Heidebrecht, Eric Peters, Kathryn Friesen, Albert Goerzen, Christine Hansplant, Wayne Janz

In 2022, Camp Valaqua ran a successful summer camp program just as pandemic measures were largely ending. We made the choice to keep some of the public health measures in place from the previous summer and will continue to evaluate which measure we continue to take in the long term. Many people expressed to us how meaningful it was that they were able to work, volunteer and/or play at camp again.

This summer proved to be a difficult one in terms of staff shortages and covering for staff members who needed to take precautions when they were feeling unwell. Jeff Schellenberg was able to take a much needed sabbatical through the summer and with the strong leadership of Jon Olfert, we were able to work through all of these challenges. One of the issues highlighted from this summer was the need to increase the wages of the summer camp counsellors. We have approved this increase in the proposed budget for 2023 and we hope this will encourage recruitment and retention of these valuable staff members.

In 2023, we look forward to another year of summer camp programs and have received a higher than normal response to the opening of our registration for the upcoming summer. Our family camp and canoe camps quickly filled to capacity with registrants. There is clearly significant enthusiasm for our camp and its impactful programs.

Rentals of the camp facility throughout the year have been stronger this year with many of our regular rental groups returning. Almost all weekends are booked throughout the year and the use of the camp during the weekdays is continuing with the nature school. Rentals of the yurts have continued to show strong interest and we are exploring this interest in the use of our land and how we can offer more opportunities such as this in the future.

We were facing a significant shortfall in our budget in the fall. We did not receive a grant that we were expecting for our summer camp program, but thanks to the efforts of our committee members and staff, Jon Olfert and Jeff Schellenberg, we ran a fundraising campaign and raised significant funds in the last few months of 2022. We are grateful for the support of MCA and its constituents for continuing to support our camp program.

Submitted by Kathryn Friesen



Hope Trust Transition



Jon Olfert

CAMP DIRECTOR

We were so happy to have a camp full of kids last summer! We did work within some self imposed COVID restrictions, but things were mostly back to normal and it felt great to have meals together in the lodge, to sing together around the fire, and to enjoy being together with a bit less trepidation. It was a good season! Thank you to everyone who trusted us with their kids!

Campers

Our final number of campers for 2022 was 326. We started with reduced capacity in our program as a COVID precaution and as we approached summer we were able to relax that restriction. The next limiting factor became staff and we found many of our programs were maxed out because we did not have enough counselling staff to add cabins.

We were so happy to help so many Discover God in Creation this summer. Our chaplains shared stories and lessons, our counsellor shared devotionals and wisdom, and we took every opportunity to worship together.

We gave out over \$5400 in campership aid to help 20 kids get to camp. We are so grateful to have the freedom to tear down any financial barriers that may lie between kids and camp. Thank you to all the amazing donors that helped to support this program. It makes a huge impact!

Out-trips

Our Out-trip program made a comeback this summer with two excellent staffers taking on the challenge. All of our trips ran and some had waiting lists. We added a canoe camp to the schedule due to popular demand and were able to fill the second week of the program. The trips ran well and campers came back smiling! We had a challenge with driving as our insurance wasn't willing to recognize our young leaders as insured drivers. Do you have a class 4 license and want to help camp one or two days a week? We should talk!



Hope Trust Transition

Facility Upgrades

The Yurts have been a popular destination during the summer months. The transition from the Faith Retreat Centre to the yurts is now complete with a picnic shelter, the loveliest outhouse you will ever see, and a fire ring to sit around on those cool evenings. The Yurts allow families and groups to access camp while our summer programs are going on. If you are interested in booking the yurts, please contact the camp office. The shop has a new tin roof and the Jackpine has seen some repairs. Next on our facilities plan is upgrading the sleeping spaces in the lodge and then addressing the future of the Jackpine. The Jackpine is on its last legs. The Inn has served us incredibly well over these 60 or so years, but it is time to make some decisions about what might replace it. Stay tuned!

Camp and COVID

We had a few cases of COVID in our camp community in 2022, but managed to stave off transmission through rapid isolation and lots of testing. We did require campers and staff to provide proof of vaccination in 2022 and maintained some of the camp structure to limit interactions between cabins. We do not plan to continue the vaccine requirement in 2023.

Valaqua the rest of the year

Our rental program is back in full swing, and we do not have an available weekend until late in the fall. It is good to see the facility getting good use again! We continue to host a nature school program on Mondays and Fridays and have a few midweek bookings through the winter and spring.

Staff

Our staff continue to be our major strength at Valaqua. Summer 2022 brought challenges that we haven't faced often and we had a number of staff that were unable to continue in their roles for a variety of reasons. We are so grateful for the young people who call this place home. You'll notice multiple names in some spots and one name showing up more than once here and there and that's on purpose. The challenges of this season had lots of us wear lots of hats!

Camp Valaqua staff 2022

Leadership Support Staff

Interim Manager:	Noah Thiessen
Program Director:	Jaden Krahn
CIT Director:	Jake Sola
Office Manager:	Rachel Hunsberger
PIT Crew Boss:	Erynn Anderson/Charlene Lauzier
Camp Gardener:	Misa Storkova
Out Trip Co-Directors:	Jessi Brandt, Sam Jobson

Cooks:

Andi York, Elise Feddema, Danika Feddema, Helen Schellenberg

Male Counselors:

Jeremy Wiens
Tino Baergen
Kyle Wiebe
Ben Olfert Wiens
Asher Warkentin

Female Counselors:

Erica Urbshott
Danaka Feddema
Elise Feddema
Elena Kroeker
Leah Anderson
Delaney Janzen

Male CITs:

Patrick Dunn
Yohannes Abera
Jordan Wiens

Female CITs:

Sarah King
Emma Achtemichuk
Donatella Filewych
Jade Janssen
Ainsley Dunn
Josephine Koop
Margo Retzlaff
Julia Buhr
Sarah Giesbrecht
Kienna Krahn
Madison Nugent

Volunteers

We had over 60 people who generously volunteered their time to help with our camp program this summer. Teen and adult volunteers served in the kitchen, helped out with maintenance, served as chaplains, and came out to help prepare the camp for the summer. Thank you for all of your help through the summer months, we could not do it without you!

Ron Janzen once again needs a special mention. Ron joined us for the 10th summer in a row! His time here was cut short by a nasty fall and some health challenges. Ron will be retiring from being our ever-present handy guy due to health concerns. We are excited to join him in Pincher Creek in March for a bit of a retirement celebration. He has been fixing the things we break for many years and we will miss him dearly.

Rudy Wiens also needs to be mentioned here. Rudy dedicated his sixth full season to Valaqua, serving in the kitchen for the entire summer. Rudy brings such a sense of play and a lifetime of wisdom both to the kitchen and to the camp community. Thank you, Rudy!

We owe a huge thank you to the chaplains who came and brought our chapels and campfires to life. Chaplains shared stories, lead activities and games, challenged us, got us thinking and talking and helped us to learn how we can light up the world with our love and faith.

We continue to encourage our MCA churches to support your pastors, youth pastors, and other leaders in faith to come and serve with us here at Valaqua. It is a great opportunity to see the summer program in action, and it's kind of fun too!

Youth Leadership Team

I continue to be involved with mentoring the Youth Leadership Team. We will be hosting Snowcamp on February 24-26 and are very much looking forward to it! Look for announcements around a ski day and a possible event in Edmonton later in the spring.

Conclusion

There have been some big challenges in 2022. We struggled more than we have in recent memory with staffing, we missed out on a grant that we have been getting consistently for several years, and we had intermittent rental traffic (due to the global pandemic) in the early part of the year. Through all of this, God has been good! We are so thankful for your amazing support. For those who served as chaplain, helped in the kitchen, supported us in prayer, and supported us financially, we are forever grateful. It has been such a joy sharing this corner of God's amazing garden with you!

Jon Olfert, Camp Director



Suzanne Gross

BRIDGE BUILDING FACILITATOR

In September, 2022, what used to be called “North Edmonton Ministries” evolved into an expanded vision for this work, under the name “Bridge Building.” This vision builds from the relationships and learnings developed under the NEM, including the use of the framework of Hospitality, Dialogue, Peacebuilding, and Witness to guide our journey in relationship-building with the diversity around us. The ministry of the expanded Bridge Building work aims to give opportunity for congregations across Alberta to reflect on how God is already working in their communities, and where the growing edges of intercultural and interfaith inclusion might be for each individual faith community.

Through the Bridge Building Facilitator role, I have continued to build strong partnerships in the Edmonton area with the Shama Centre, Al Rashid Mosque, and Islamic Family (IFSSA). Scriptural Reasoning also continues to inspire those who participate, leading to new initiatives of ecumenical/interfaith opportunities. With new staff at MCC Alberta, we are reviving and expanding the Peace Program portfolio which includes good relationships between IFSSA and MCC Alberta that were forged when our organizations welcomed hundreds of Syrians together for good settlement among us.

Here are some highlights of the fall work of Bridge Building:

October 21 Anglican synod ecumenical presence: I was invited by Scott Sharman to bring ecumenical greetings to the Anglican Synod gathering. My greetings were requested in writing to include in their newsletter. Catholics, Lutherans and Moravians were also represented. **Query: How does engagement in our ecumenical spaces build relationship and opportunity to unite around our Christian identity in Jesus?**

October 29 ACWAB Interfaith Dialogue on the topic of “Drawing the Circle Bigger”. I was invited to close with an acknowledgement of the work we need to do on the Right Relations front of building bridges with Indigenous people – as Muslims and Christians -- and closed with a reflection by Dorothy Day, given to me by our Catholic member on the planning committee. **Query: How does our Mennonite history and theological perspective support Interfaith dialogue on the topic of “Right relations?”**



November 6 Intercultural engagement with Calgary South Sudanese and the Chin Mennonite church family members. I met with leadership from the South Sudanese to explore evolving a biblical process for establishing a strong committed church community in Calgary. That same weekend, I was blessed with the opportunity to preach in the Chin congregation, and was warmly welcomed. **Query: How can we strengthen relationships and inter-church exchanges to open all of us up to the rich diversity in our midst?**

November 9 IFSSA (Islamic Family Social Services Association) and MCC gathered together all pertinent people involved in past MCC-Edmonton refugee resettlement players. We gathered to help the newer MCC staff understand the past impact MCC Alberta has had on the collaborative work in Edmonton largely through IFSSA. There was great interest in learning from this past, and imagining the future together. **Query: What are the possibilities in our different regions for bringing MCC work and the broader community into engaged relationship through joint projects?**

December 6 Bosnian update – I met with Jasmina Colic who has had a long history of Bosnian community building in Edmonton since the Bosnian genocide in the 1990s. I had not seen Jasmina since 2020. I learned that in the context of European populism, Muslims in Bosnia are again in danger of being discriminated against. I learned that Serbia is trying hard to erase the recent genocide history, by outlawing inclusion of this story in public spaces, including education. I also learned about an event Jasmina was organizing to support an Iraqi/Syrian calligrapher and honey product producer (honey vinegar and beeswax candles) Najr Al Tameemi and his family are 3 times refugees, originally from Iraq, fleeing to Syria, and then from Syria to Canada. It was so nice to see him and his family thriving, with so much joyful resilience to share through calligraphy as an art, and his love of bees. **Query: Are there old friends God is calling us to reconnect to?**

December 20, Foothills, Trinity, Edmonton First, Lethbridge, and Holyrood as well as Tim Wiebe Neufeld joined together for the first Bridge Building Network meeting. We began to build relationships, and share from our personal and church community experiences of navigating diversity and building intercultural and interfaith spaces to draw our circles bigger. **Prayer request: Pray for the work of Bridge Building in our Mennonite Church Alberta family, that it may plant seeds of strengthening existing relationship, and expanding our web of relationship for the good of us all.**

I continue to write periodic blogs that can be found on the Mennonite Church Alberta Bridge building page of their website. <https://mcab.ca/bridge-building>

As we move into 2023, I invite us all to pay attention to local opportunities to connect across cultural and faith difference. I see myself as a resource to each church community, and as such am ready to travel to you to share a meditation on the Biblical underpinnings of bridge building. I am also ready to organize virtual gatherings to discuss issues or opportunities pertinent to your community. Each congregation has been invited to participate in the Bridge Building Network that meets six times a year. Our hope is to share growing edges with each other, and to collect stories to share through our communications platforms. May we continue to bless each other with shared learning in this important witness to Christ-like inclusion and love of the diversity around us.

Community Building and Program

We planned the 2022 Annual Delegate Sessions. Initially we had hoped to have it in person, with First Mennonite Church (Calgary) as host, but COVID got the better of us again and we decided it was best to move to Zoom. We were very happy to have George and Tobia Veith as our guest speakers, to highlight the 3rd year of E3. They had recently returned from China as International Witness Workers and shared on "Leaders Among Us," looking at how the international leaders they served with influenced them during their time in China. Tom and Christine Poovong, Werner and Joanne DeJong also provided videos to share the work they have been doing. We were pleased that both CMU and RJC agreed to send us prerecorded song videos from their respective choirs. The songs they provided suited the theme very well and were very appreciated. Prior to the ADS, we had committee and other partner workshops, which had good attendance. First Mennonite Church (Calgary) hosted an in person and Zoom church service on Sunday.

We assisted in choosing the young adult delegates that attended the Assembly in Edmonton.

While we did explore having a Portable CMU weekend by Zoom as well as a Fall Gathering, with the Assembly in Edmonton and the MCC Fall Festival, it was decided to postpone these until 2023. Watch the MCA Communique for an invite to "Taste of MCA" coming in April!

We were happy to accept 7 applications for the MCA Bursary. All students are attending CMU in various years. The students receiving funds were Elijah Koop, Simon Koop, Kyle Wiebe, Illja Sawatsky, Asher Warkentin, Danika Warkentin and Bryant Neufeldt.

Karen Janz

Charlotte Wiens

Coreen Froese



Hope Trust Transition

Nominations

A Nominating Committee is given the task of gift discernment. We work throughout the year responding as vacancies remain or arise after the Annual Delegate Sessions.

MCA positions are for 2 years, with a maximum of 3 terms.
Currently, our committee make-up/those taking an additional term (blue)/slate of new nominees (red) include:

Executive Committee (4 positions plus Executive Minister: Tim Wiebe Neufeld)

Moderator	Brenda Tiessen-Wiens (3 rd term)	2024
Vice Moderator	Peter Sang (2 nd term)	2025
Secretary	Elizabeth Wall (3 rd term)	2024
Finance Chair	_____	2026

Personnel (1 position)

Doug Wiebe (2 nd term)	2024
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Finance Committee (2 positions needed)

_____	2026-proposed three year
_____	2025

Congregational Leadership Committee (3 positions plus Executive Minister)

Anna-Lisa Salo (3 rd term)	2025
Caleb Kowalko (1 st term)	2024
Tim Burkholder (1 st term)	2025

Community Building and Program Committee (3 positions)

Karen Janz (3 rd term)	2024
Charlotte Wiens (1 st term)	2024
Adela Wedler (1 st term)	2025

Missions & Service Committee (4 positions)

Jake Froese (3 rd term)	2024
Riek Tut (3 rd term)	2024
Marie Moyer (able to accept first year of 2 nd term at this point)	2024
_____	2025

Camp Valaqua	Committee (5 positions)	
Albert Goerzen	(3 rd term)	2024
Kathryn Friesen	(2 nd term)	2024
Christine Hansplant	(3 rd term)	2025
Darrel Heidebrecht	(2 nd term)	2025
Liam Kachkar	(1 st term)	2025
Nominations Committee	(1 position needed)	
Jan Wilhelm	(1 st term)	2024
Joani Neufeldt	(1 st term)	2025
Canadian Mennonite Representative		
Art Koop	(3 rd term)	2026
Joint Council Representative		
Margaret Kruger- Harder	(3 rd term)	2025
Palestine Israel Network of Mennonite Church Canada (Rep.)		
Suzanne Gross	(2 nd term)	2025
MC Canada Nominating Committee		
Joani Neufeldt	(1 st term)-affirm summer appointment	2025
CMU Board: Prairie Regions Representative	(3 year term)	
Reece Zablocki		2024

There are still some volunteers required.

Finance – 2

Missions a & Service-1

We hope to have these positions filled by the time of our next Annual Delegate Sessions on March 18, 2023.

Thank you to Ryan Dueck, Vince Friesen, Coreen Froese, Wayne Janz, Eric Peters, and Charlene Retzlaff who are finishing/stepping down. Your diligence and obvious commitment to MCA is appreciated.

Thank you to those who have agreed to accept a new nomination or continue to serve for another term.

Thank you to those who prayerfully considered accepting our request to let their name stand on a committee and could not do so at this time.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Wilhelm and Charlene Retzlaff

Church Representative to Joint Council

This year on Joint Council has been exciting in many ways, as it is a year that a number of policies Joint Council has been developing came into practice, leading to some good changes.

One of the policies is a New Operating Agreement: this agreement outlines, in a streamlined way, how Mennonite Church Canada (MC Canada) is organized, how power is distributed, who makes which decisions and how they make them. Among other benefits, the agreement opens the way for Joint Council to be involved in both generative time during meetings, brainstorming ways to respond to current needs in the church, and in strategic planning, putting plans in place for meeting MC Canada priorities. The Operating Agreement is available to view on the CommonWord website. <https://www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/82/25643>

Another policy that came into effect is the Shared Revenue Agreement (SRA). The SRA outlines how funds are shared between the five regions of MC Canada and MC Canada itself. Funds are shared according to percentages that are customized to each region, based on common criteria, such as the number of churches in the region.

A policy that is in the development stage is an addendum to the existing Ministerial Sexual Misconduct Policies and Procedure document. This addendum is needed to set policies and procedures for dealing with Ministerial misconduct that involves conflict or work performance behaviour of a nonsexual nature. An interim addendum is in place, while the final policy is being refined.

Further areas of focus for Joint Council are Indigenous relations and climate action. Joint Council supported the creation of a Climate Action position on MC Canada staff, as well as a self imposed carbon tax levy on travel that is for MC Canada purposes. The money collected is added to a creation care fund that will become available to congregations as an Emissions Reduction Grant.

Information about MC Canada staff positions and roles is available on the Mennonite Church Canada website. <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/about/staff>

The role of Mennonite World Conference (MWC) in our national and regional church bodies is another area that Joint Council has been examining. How to promote awareness of what MWC represents and does, as well as what our financial commitment should be, are areas of discerning, planning and decision making that are currently underway.



Hope Trust Transition

Joint Council is also concerned with the need to see the community of faith as broader than having a singular cultural focus, and to be inclusive of the many cultures that the Mennonite/Anabaptist church is comprised of. An Intercultural Steering Committee, made up of people from varied cultural backgrounds, is involved in helping set direction. The next Annual Delegate Sessions of MC Canada will highlight the Intercultural nature of the church.

The minutes for Joint Council meetings are available on the CommonWord website. <https://www.commonword.ca/QuickSearch?search=joint+council+meetings&sort=relevance>

This year has been my fifth serving as Mennonite Church Alberta (delegate body) representative to Joint Council, and I have accepted another two year term. Thank-you for the opportunity to serve the Church in this meaningful way.

Submitted by
Margaret Kruger-Harder: Mennonite Church Alberta representative to MC Canada Joint Council



Looking back on 2022

I am grateful for the many opportunities we've had to enrich our nationwide church in 2022.

- Congregations across the country again shared weekly online worship services with our nationwide community of through the summer season.
- With the gracious help of many volunteers, youth gathered for Amplify! (Camp Valaqua, Alberta) and many adults were invigorated at Gathering 2022 (Edmonton) under the theme "We Declare: what we have seen and heard"
- Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) began work on a centralized, comprehensive guidebook that addresses prevention of abuse by lay and credentialed leaders.

CommonWord

Bookstore and Resource Centre



- Over 14,000 materials available for loan at commonword.ca are easily searched by keyword or scripture text and can be shipped for free to your home and back to Winnipeg.
- Online resources are free to listen, view, download or read.
- Retail products are competitively priced.
- In the past year we have helped worship leaders, teachers, small group leaders, pastors, treasurers, deacons, musicians, other congregational volunteers, and avid readers of all ages, in addition to our regular and Christmas gift shoppers find just what they're looking for.

- As of November 23, 2022, we have processed nearly 700 online retail orders, 5,800 in-store purchases, 2,200 loans, and 18,000 downloads. Thank you for your support!

Indigenous Relations

Jonathan Neufeld began his work as Indigenous Relations Coordinator in November. He's been connecting with regional working groups engaged in Indigenous reconciliation and relationship building, and related nationwide ecumenical networks.

Climate Action

In November, Sandy Plett began shaping her work in a new to MC Canada role as Climate Action Coordinator. She will provide support to the regional churches and their working groups and networks with nationwide partners doing climate justice work.

International Witness

- Witness has active partnerships in 15 countries, four of which have workers physically present: Werner and Joanne De Jong teach at the Meserete Kristos Seminary in Ethiopia; Bock Ki Kim and Sook Kyoung Park are building peace networks and church planting in South Korea; Dann and Joji Pantoja continue developing peace and reconciliation teams together with income generation; Tom and Christine Poovong support a growing network of Jesus followers with leadership training and income generation in Thailand.

- A new category of resident bridge builders called "Relationship Catalysts" started officially this year as Gerald and Rie Neufeld moved to Japan and began to strengthen the relationship between MC Canada and Tokyo Area Fellowship of Mennonite Churches.



- Witness has resumed calling young people into cross-cultural internships with Sarah Wood spending six months living and learning in rural Thailand where she teaches English

You can find our full annual report for 2022 at [CommonWord](#).

Blessings in 2023,

Doug Klassen
Executive Minister



Menonite Church Eastern Canada

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Kitchener ON, N2G 3R1
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Toll Free 855-476-2500
Website: www.mcec.ca

2022 IN REVIEW

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

MCEC DELEGATES EMBRACE NEW IDENTITY AND PRIORITY STATEMENTS

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

SEVEN CONGREGATIONS AND 25 PASTORS WELCOMED INTO MCEC

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

ANN SCHULTZ BEGINS AS INTENTIONAL INTERIM EXECUTIVE TEAM LEADER

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

MESERETE KRISTOS SEMINARY OPENS MULTIPURPOSE HALL

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

WE COME TOGETHER AS A REGIONAL CHURCH TO:

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

AT A GLANCE

MCEC Community of Congregations

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

Supporting Pastors & Congregational Leaders

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

Supporting Congregations

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

Congregational Transitions

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

Church Plants

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



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

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

Mennonite Church Manitoba - Year in Review 2022

Thirty-nine congregations across Manitoba covenant together to be Mennonite Church Manitoba, coming together for mutual support and shared ministry. Five regional churches, including MCM, covenant together to be Mennonite Church Canada, likewise coming together for mutual support and shared ministry. We are grateful to God for these relationships built on trust and respect and care.

2022 was a year of tentative steps into an unknown future for MCM, with all the surprises and opportunities this brings. The easing of pandemic protections but with the pandemic still present, along with political, social, and economic uncertainties among us and around us, have prompted congregations to ask identity and mission questions afresh. Who is God calling us to be and what is God calling us to do in these days?

One result of this reflection has been a greater desire to engage in God's mission for the church. Our new Director of Mission Engagement, Melanie Neufeld, has walked with congregations as they explore possibilities. Many congregations, some with the assistance of a Local Mission Grant from MCM, have stepped out in faith and love to sponsor refugees, open food banks, establish community centres or resource hubs, and more. Congregations have also looked to wider missional involvement through our regional working groups such as the Mennonite Coalition for Indigenous Solidarity, the Climate Action Working Group, and the Palestine-Israel Network, or through partnering with International Witness workers or ministries.

Our Camps with Meaning summer program was back in full swing, led by Director Dorothy



Fontaine and our full-time Camp staff. Supported by 109 volunteers, leaders in training, and summer staff, Camp Assiniboia and Camp Koinonia welcomed 523 campers this summer, including our Adults with Disabilities programs. MCM also supported five young adults to attend the Global Youth Summit as part of the Mennonite World Conference Assembly in Indonesia, and we supported youth and leader participants from MCM in the Young Leaders Experience at MC Canada's Gathering in Edmonton.

A key aspect of our mutual support as MCM is our care for pastors and congregations. Rick Neufeld retired in March as Director of Leadership Ministries, and in August Karen Schel-

lenberg and Jeff Friesen stepped into this role as Co-Directors. Together they have walked with our 50+ pastors and other spiritual leaders through challenging



times in 2022, and encouraged 5 people toward licensing or ordination. Kathy Giesbrecht has now had a full year as Director of Congregational Ministries, and she has walked with congregations seeking support in congregational care and faith formation. We are grateful also for the return of in-person church visits and concerts by our Faith and Life Choirs, an important aspect of our congregational ministries.

Who is God calling us to be and what is God calling us to do in these days? This is a question not just for congregations but for us as a regional church. "These days" are indeed filled with uncertainties; the future is very much unknown. Yet as we walk together in these days, we do not walk alone. Jesus is with us each step of the way. Let us draw strength and hope from this promise.

"Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:20

Mennonite Church Saskatchewan 2022 Annual Report

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

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



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



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

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



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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A silver anniversary

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

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



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

In 2022, Calgary-based **Jessica Evans** told some of those stories. Jessica published 36 articles and photos about the church in Alberta, including the national gathering in Edmonton last summer. Jessica left *CM* at the end of November and the position is currently vacant. If you know someone who might write for *CM*, contact Will at editor@canadianmennonite.org.



C M events We launched *CM* events in 2022 to offer a place for interactive and lively discussion on important issues. Alberta was well-represented with Joanne Moyer a panelist at our event on climate change. *CM* events will continue in 2023. Plan to join us! Go to canadianmennonite.org/events.

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

Hebrews 10: 24-25

Canadian Mennonite in 2022

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



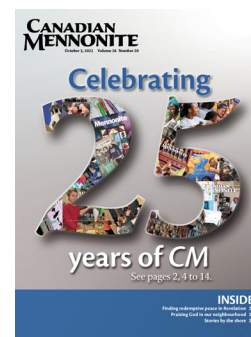
Canadian Mennonite is your magazine for reflecting on faith and connecting with the Mennonite Church Canada community. Through a magazine, website, social media and online events, we share news and talk about the important issues of our day. We are guided by Paul's letter to the Hebrews, exhorting the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

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

Ways to connect

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

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



CMU Mission

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

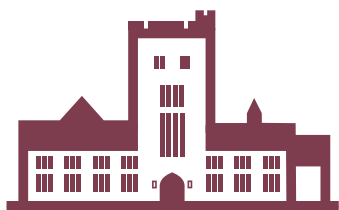
2022-23 Enrolment

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

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

753 Total CMU FTE

Small university Big opportunities



Why CMU?

Academic excellence
Professors know you
Work experience in every program
Faith and community matter

For more information and connection to CMU:

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

cmu.ca



Greetings to Mennonite Church Alberta

Here's a glimpse into CMU classrooms this year:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Resourcing the church

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

Graduate School of Theology and Ministry | Study part time or full time, in person or online. Full scholarships for full time students available. Visit cmu.ca/gstm.

ReNew | Pastor and church leader conference, happens January 30-31, 2023. Visit cmu.ca/renew.

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

– Letter from Hutterite students 2022



IMAGINE. THRIVE. EXPLORE. BELONG.

Report to the MC Alberta Annual Delegate Sessions 2023

RJC High School finished the school year last June with a balanced budget and an increase in student numbers from the previous year. We are excited that there is certainly an appetite from students and parents for an Anabaptist perspective on education in the 21st century.

We continue to be grateful for our relationship with MC Alberta, its member churches and affiliate organizations. Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership. MC Alberta's financial support has allowed us to provide accessible tuition rates and bursaries for students in need.

We have appreciated the ways in which we have been able to partner with MC Alberta since our last ADS:

- Visited MC Alberta churches during Alberta choir tour
- Preached for MC Alberta congregations over Zoom
- Partnered with Calgary Chin Christian Church during RJC's Alternative Learning & Service Opportunities (ALSO) week for an evening of worship and community building
- Served at Camp Valaqua during ALSO week
- Participated in a mental health workshop and retreat at Camp Valaqua for our Grade 11 THRIVE class during Initiative week
- RJC staff worked on the planning committee for the Amplify! Youth Conference at Camp Valaqua
- Provided virtual options for community events and concerts for MC Alberta members, alumni, and friends
- Led by a board of directors, which includes 3 members of MC Alberta
- Supported RJC student though bursaries provided through the financial gift MC Alberta provides RJC every year

As demographics change and our student body diversifies, we adapt accordingly but remain committed to our vision to be an Anabaptist school for the world.

Thank you for your continued support of our school, our students and our shared mission.

Sincerely,

Ryan Wood,
Principal

Alex Tiessen,
Director of Admissions & Development

RJC BY THE NUMBERS: 2022/2023

99 Total Students

56 Girls / 43 Boys

31 Grade 10

35 Grade 11

33 Grade 12

42 Day Students

8 Shuttle Students

57 Dormitory Students

22% Students of Alumni

19% MC Sask/MCA Affiliation

52% Have Indicated Some
Church Affiliation

17% First Nations & Metis

75 Saskatchewan Students*

24 Out-of-province/
International

1 British Columbia

4 Alberta

1 Ontario

15 Hong Kong

1 China

1 Singapore

1 Brazil

* SK students include new Canadians from countries such as Burma, the Philippines, Ukraine, India, Nigeria & Sudan

Report to Mennonite Church Alberta

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

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

Degrees and programs (* = distance-friendly program)

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

ambs.ca/degrees-and-programs

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

Leadership and enrichment

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

Short-term options

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

Yearlong offerings

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

ambs.ca/leadership-and-enrichment



(Credit: Jason Bryant)

Regional church connections

- **2022 graduate:** Adela Wedler (Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies) (First – Edmonton)
- **Board member:** Paul Bergen (MDiv 1999) (First – Edmonton)

AMBS statistics

- In 2022–23, 141 graduate students are enrolled at AMBS: 61 from the U.S., six from Canada and 74 international students. The undergraduate-level Journey program has 16 participants from the U.S., Canada and Uganda.
- In 2021–22, need-based financial aid and scholarships covered 75% of graduate student tuition costs.
- In April 2022, 14 women and seven men from seven countries graduated from AMBS (*see above*).

Want to try out seminary?

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

ambs.ca/online-short-courses

- Take a graduate-level course — online or on campus. Nonadmitted students get 50% off tuition for their first three credit hours! ambs.ca/upcoming-courses
- Schedule a virtual or in-person visit. Talk with students, faculty and staff and learn what AMBS has to offer! ambs.ca/visit

- Stay connected: facebook.com/followAMBS • twitter.com/ambs_seminary • ambs.ca/subscribe

2022 has been full of exciting work and meaningful connections as the work of Mennonite Men continues to benefit our communities and congregations. Our three programs—JoinTrees, JoinMen, and JoinHands—continue to thrive as we invite men to grow, give and serve as followers of Jesus.

To learn more about our work, download resources, or contribute to our programs, visit mennonitemen.org.

Steve Thomas, Mennonite Men U.S. Coordinator
stevet@mennonitemen.org | (574) 202-0048

Don Neufeld, Mennonite Men Coordinator for Canada
don.neufeld@outlook.com | 905-650-1577



Mennonite Men

Engaging men to grow, give and serve.

JoinTrees

Planting Trees to restore the earth



JoinTrees is our campaign to plant one million trees by 2030. This campaign targets climate change—an existential threat to life on our planet. By increasing tree and forest cover with this JoinTrees campaign, our goals are to help: (1) mitigate global warming, (2) serve climate justice, and (3) support vulnerable communities.

Our vision is a healthy, thriving planet where God's abundant life of shalom is enjoyed by all from generation to generation.

We recently reached the milestone of our first 100,000 trees planted! We are grateful for the

strong support of this creation care and climate action campaign. Of the 100,287 trees planted, 75,385 were in Central America, 20,902 in North America, and 4,000 in Africa. Our largest project this year was in Baja Verapaz, Guatemala where local communities and families planted 35,385 trees in agroforestry projects.

Our board recently approved seven JoinTrees grant proposals for planting 52,819 more trees. Projects include 20,367 trees in Guatemala, 20,000 in Mexico, 1,400 at Camp Friedenswald in Michigan, 2,852 at East Goshen Mennonite Church, and 8,200 on Mennonite properties in Goshen, Indiana.

Learn more and contribute to this program at mennonitemen.org/jointrees

JoinHands

Sharing resources for new church buildings



JoinHands is our program for giving and grantmaking. Through our JoinHands Mennonite Church Building Program, we provide grants to help new congregations acquire their first church building. Mennonite Men has given over 2.3 million dollars to new congregations for this purpose.

We invite individuals and congregations to give to JoinHands. We especially ask churches pursuing building projects to give as a way of sharing resources and serving “fair balance” with congregations in need.

Our next JoinHands grant will assist Ripple Church, a Mennonite congregation of Mosaic Mennonite Conference, to purchase an existing building for their meeting place and community center in Allentown, Pennsylvania. This congregation is active in offering neighborhood ministries for children, youth, meal service, and providing a place of belonging. Church leaders state, “Purchasing this building will allow the church to continue into the future and provide a safe location downtown for many people who are not welcomed in other areas of the city.”

For more details about this program, visit mennonitemen.org/joinhands.

JoinMen

Gathering men and promoting their growth



JoinMen provides retreats and resources from an Anabaptist perspective to promote healthy masculinity, Christian formation and community. We desire that all men find a place of belonging among men who are strong, loving and wise as we follow Jesus in building God's shalom.

Retreats provide opportunities for men to gather together and engage issues in community. More than an event, these experiences are also meant to encourage participants to be part of an ongoing men's group and growth process. A full list of

retreat themes we offer can be found at mennonitemen.org/joinmen.

Fewer retreats in the last year has given us the opportunity to complete a new book with Herald Press titled *Living that Matters: Honest Conversations for Men of Faith*. This practical handbook is a guide to help individuals and groups engage in honest conversations on what matters most for men—with a focus on following Jesus, forming community, and building peace. These short reflections help individuals and groups deepen relationships with one another and with God as we seek to live into God's shalom. Look for the book's release by Herald Press in early 2023.

Thank you for joyfully sharing God's love.

Last year people from MCA congregations gave generously from both their wallets and their schedules, enabling MCC to respond where desperate situations might not hit the news. People around the world were enabled to cope with crisis, build better futures, and learn peaceful ways to work through difficulties. We value the good foundation that MCA churches are to MCC and look forward to working together into the future.

Each week, MCC announcements are emailed to churches to share news and opportunities. Since bulletin space is limited, these are point form updates with a link to stories and more information. Anyone can be on the list, just contact the office at 403-275-6935 or <office@mccab.ca>

Highlights from the 2021-2022 fiscal year: (2021-2022 Annual Impact Report.)

https://mcccanada.ca/learn/about/annual-reports/annual-impact-report-20212022?report_province=AB

In Alberta:

*You helped support 59 newcomers to settle in Calgary, Edmonton and Brooks.

*509 hours of volunteer time helped Circles of Support and Accountability to support 5 former sexual offenders to live accountable and constructive lives.

*Low German Mennonites near Taber received help to access services, such as employment and health care, through translation and referral assistance.

*You, and a \$50,000 match from the Flaman Foundation, helped GO!100 raise \$243,634

*You helped sponsor 317 acres of cropland through the Grow Hope program. Summer 2021 was dry, but our resourceful farmers still raised \$147,000! This was matched up to 4-1 by the Canadian government to alleviate hunger and promote food security.

Around the world:

*1,710 comforters, 1,816 hygiene kits, 5,812 infant care kits, 1,151 school kits and 815 relief buckets went to people in places like Haiti and Jordan.

*61,784 hours of volunteer time allowed our 4 Thrift shops, Lethbridge, Taber, Calgary, and Edmonton to raise \$1,367,406 for international work, increasing total sales by 22% from the previous year.

*\$4,058,953 was forwarded to MCC Canada for International programs.

Stay Tuned For MCC's 2022-2023 Annual Impact Report! (MCC's fiscal year ends March 31)

Exciting things have happened! The Sept. 24 Fall Festival at Bergthal Mennonite was a chance to reconnect as an extended church family while raising funds for others. Grow Hope was an incredible response to the hunger crisis with 329 acres sponsored. GO!100 in summer 2022 engaged a wide variety of participants and enthusiasm for MCC's work. We look forward to sharing the final results of these events after March 31, 2023!

Ryan Siemens



Executive Director

Donita Wiebe-Neufeld



Church Engagement Coordinator