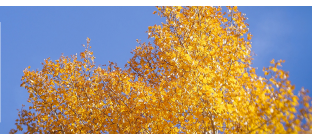




2025 Fall Update



Serve each other according to the gift each person has received, as good managers of God's diverse gifts. Whoever speaks should do so as those who speak God's word. Whoever serves should do so from the strength that God furnishes. Do this so that in everything God may be honoured through Jesus Christ. To him be honour and power forever and always. Amen. 1 Peter 4:10,11

Everyday across Alberta MCA members are busy being the hands and feet of Christ. This can range from what each of us are doing individually, to the camp programs we ran this summer, to gathering together as congregations on Sundays, and even when our committees such as Finance, Community Building, and the Executive meet. Read more to see what has been happening across the MCA community and some upcoming opportunities to participate.

Camp Valaqua was blessed (?) with lots of rain this summer! Campers only got to enjoy the river at the start of the summer and again during the last week with an all camp swim and canoeing. While it rained, staff were creative with indoor games. The old lawn games (corn hole, giant connect four, Tetris, and kids axe throwing) were back. Some new ACE's (All Camp Events) including

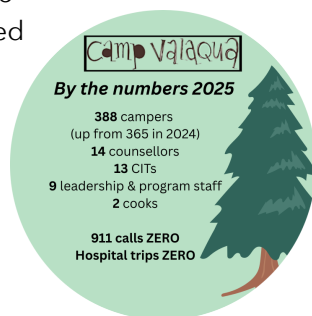


a giant game of Candy Land were created.

During an indoor pirate school, campers learned pirate lingo, built treasure chests, made maps and talked to Polly the parrot (a very

enthusiastic staff member asking for crackers). Overall, 2025 was an awesome summer!

Charlene Lauzier, interim director



Wish you could spend more time at Camp Valaqua? Come to **Camp Workday, October 4!** Bring gloves and a willing spirit!

Student Bursaries

MCA has a long-established practice of funding students attending Mennonite post-secondary institutions. This year, **Asher Warkentin** and **Kyle Wiebe** both received \$1000 bursaries. Watch for their essays in October!



Bridge Building

facilitator **Suzanne Gross** had a busy summer beginning with sharing about intercultural work as part of two panels at the MC Canada Gathering in Kitchener, Ontario. She came home excited to expand the stories and the message of intercultural work as sacred and as **deep hospitality** as she seeks to walk with all the churches in Alberta in the coming year. She has preached at Springridge and is scheduled to speak at Calgary First Mennonite and looks forward to joining other congregations in upcoming months.



Indigenous Relations Working Group. September 30th is **Truth and Reconciliation Day**. Mennonite friends in Edmonton have an opportunity to join **Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society** for their pipe ceremony, teachings, and feasting on that day.

Those outside of Edmonton are encouraged to participate in Orange Shirt activities near them. See the IRWG MCA web page for ideas. As well, the IRWG is continuing to imagine and plan for a spring retreat at Camp Valaqua where we will explore connection to land and history as Mennonites joining this land and peoples who came before.

Baptisms:

Calgary First Mennonite Church and Holyrood Mennonite!

We rejoice as these congregations recently celebrated baptisms!

August 24, Calgary First Mennonite: *Teyo Kostanecki* and *Ricky Gorecki*

September 7, Holyrood Mennonite: Elizabeth Snogba,

Edward Bumbeh, Josh Chokpelleh, Nathan Bumbeh,

Tarnisha Snogba, Venissa Tumbay

Watch for photos in the MCA Communiqué from CFMC's second baptism, September 28..



Semilla visit to Alberta

SEMILLA - the word is Spanish for "seed" - is an Anabaptist Seminary in Guatemala City that plants

seeds of hope. **Karla Vásquez** and **Willi**

Hugo Perez SEMILLA representatives, visited MC Canada congregations in September, including Foothills Mennonite, with **MC Canada International Witness Director Jeanette Hanson**. Their goal was to re-connect with past guests and invite new visitors to a reciprocal learning experience in Latin America.



Staff Transitions!

MCA is pleased to welcome **Linda Dickinson** into the **Interim Communications Coordinator Role**.

Linda joins us after a long career with MCC in Material Resources. Linda has experience sharing stories, working with partners across North America and developing congregational connections across Alberta. All this sets Linda up to serve MCA well in her new role. Linda is excited to be in a role where her faith and job can intersect on a daily basis. Please welcome her she begins November 1. There will be two weeks of orientation with Ruth before taking over fully on November 15. May God bless her as she serves MCA.



Financial Update

We are grateful for the financial resources that make all of our ministries possible. For 2025, we as a regional church committed to the following budget:

MCA Ministries	\$261,500
MCA Camping Ministries	\$464,100
MC Canada Ministries	\$123,800
Other Partner Ministries*	\$ 42,000
	\$891,400

*Canadian Mennonite, CMU, RJC and the Mennonite Historical Society.

Our total income (contributions from MCA congregations and individuals plus camp registrations and rentals) to the end of August (\$526,001) is **on par with our normal giving patterns**. Thank you to our churches and donors!

Our expenses to the end of August (\$670,784) have run higher than anticipated due to some unexpected maintenance needs at Camp Valaqua. We could use your help. **If you have a little extra this fall or have never donated to MCA or Camp, please consider making a donation.** Details on how to donate are below. Thank you!

Thank you for what you do each and every day in the name of Christ and being apart of the MCA family. Your contributions to MCA allow us to "do this so that in everything God may be honoured through Jesus Christ".

Keith Retzlaff, MCA Moderator

To Donate

- e-Transfer to treasurer@mcab.ca
- Cheque made out to Mennonite Church Alberta and mailed to 131 River Rock Place SE, Calgary, AB, T2C 4P5
- Monthly automatic withdrawals from your bank account or credit card by contacting Wayne Janz at treasurer@mcab.ca