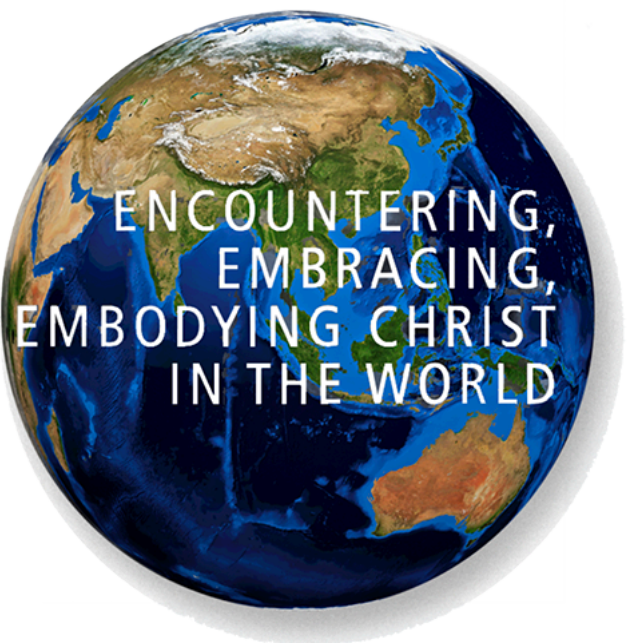


# 2022

# ANNUAL

## REPORT

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MARCH 19, 2022

## 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>INTERIM WORKER, NORTH EDMONTON MINISTRY</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

GLADYS HEIDEBRECHT	<i>NOMINATING</i>
DOUG WIEBE	<i>PERSONNEL</i>
DARREL HEIDEBRECHT	<i>CAMP VALAQUA</i>
KATE JANZEN	<i>COMMUNITY BUILDING &amp; PROGRAM</i>
VINCE FRIESEN	<i>MISSION &amp; SERVICE</i>
ANNA-LISA SALO	<i>CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP</i>
MARGARET KRUGER-HARDER	<i>REGIONAL CHURCH REP TO JOINT COUNCIL</i>

## JOINT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

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.

# Zoom Protocols

1. **Signing in** - Please join the meeting 10-15 minutes early to provide time for confirmation of your attendance.
2. **Recording** - The Zoom meeting will be recorded for the purposes of verifying minutes and will not be available outside of the MCA Executive.
3. **Please mute** - All participants are asked to remain muted unless they are speaking.
4. **Re-name** - Participants are asked to re-name themselves including their name, congregation or organization, and the letter "D" to indicate delegate or "G" to indicate guest.
5. **Engaging** - Participants are encouraged to open "Participant" and "Chat" boxes for additional engagement options.
6. **Chat** - Using the Chat feature, you can send a message to everyone or chat privately with individuals.
7. **Speaking** - If you wish to speak, use the "raise your hand" feature which can be found under "Reactions" at the bottom of your screen. Lower your hand when you have finished speaking. "Unmute" and "Mute" can be found at the bottom of the screen, on your video image, or beside your name in the Participant box.
8. **Joining by phone** - If you have joined by phone, use \*9 to raise/lower your hand and \*6 to mute/unmute. Allow 3-5 seconds for these features to take effect. You will move to the top of the screen and the Moderator will acknowledge you.
9. **Voting** - Voting will be done using Zoom's "poll" feature with three options: "yes," "no," and "abstain." Everyone will be asked to participate, but only delegates can vote "yes" or "no." All non-delegates must vote "abstain." In situations where more than one delegate is using a computer/device, only one participant will be able to vote. If the vote is close or requires all eligible delegates to vote, a second poll will be held to provide the opportunity for those who did not vote the first time. In this situation, only those who did not vote the first time will vote "yes" or "no" and all others should vote "abstain." The results of the two votes will be added together for a final count.
10. **Amendments** - A participant who wishes to make an amendment to a motion or resolution is asked to first consult the Resolutions Committee to clarify wording. This can be done either through private chat or by request to enter a "Breakout Room" for discussion. The amendment may then be brought to delegates.

# Agenda

## **Saturday, March 19**

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

**1. Opening & Worship** 9:30 AM

Opening/Welcome  
Sharing by First Mennonite Church Calgary  
Prayer for MCA Congregations  
RJC Greetings & Worship video

**2. Business Session** 10:10 AM

Approval of Minutes from March 2021 ADS  
Introduction of Nominees  
MCA Year in Review  
MC Saskatchewan Greetings  
MC Canada Video & Update  
Joint Council Representative  
*Coffee*  
CMU Greetings & Worship Video  
North Edmonton Ministry discussion  
Feedback from Workshops  
Presentation and Approval of 2021 Financial Statements  
Presentation and Approval of 2022 Budget  
Approval of Nominations  
Commissioning of Volunteers  
Announcements

**3. Lunch Break** 12:15 PM

Breakout Rooms with MCC and visiting

**4. Afternoon Worship Session: Introducing E3 Y3** 1:00 PM

Worship - video  
Encountering, Embracing, Embodying Christ in the World  
Tim Wiebe-Neufeld / E3 Reference Group  
Rebecca Janzen - MWC 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

**5. Closing of Session**

Post Meeting Visiting 2:30 PM

## **Sunday, March 20**

Joint Worship Service on Zoom - First Mennonite Calgary Host 11:00 AM

# MINUTES FROM ADS 2021

## Mennonite Church Alberta Annual Delegates Sessions Minutes Saturday, March 20, 2021 9:30 am zoom

Ninety-three people were in attendance, including staff, guests, and visitors. Forty-five delegates represented eleven churches.

### Opening & Worship

Opening/Welcome - Brenda Tiessen-Wiens (Moderator)

Parliamentarian: Vince Friesen

Resolutions Committee: Debbie Baergen, Paul Neufeldt, Brenda Tiessen-Wiens, Tim Wiebe-Neufeld

Introduction of Guests

### MC Canada

- Doug Klassen, MC Canada Executive Minister
- Arlyn Friesen Epp - Director, CommonWord
- Jeanette Hanson - International Witness, MC Canada
- Steve Heinrichs - Indigenous Settler Relations
- Katie Doke-Sawatzky - MC Canada Communications

### MC BC

- Garry Janzen, MC BC Executive Minister

### Schools

- Terry Schellenberg, (VP External, Canadian Mennonite University)
- Alex Tiessen (Rosthern Junior College - Admissions & Development)
- Doug Amstutz (Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary - Canadian Development Associate)

### Partner Organizations

- Ginny Hostetler (Executive Editor) (Canadian Mennonite)
- Tobi Thiessen (Publisher) (Canadian Mennonite)
- Ernie Engbrecht (board chair) (MCC)
- Orlando Vasquez (Associate & Program Director) (MCC)
- Abe Janzen (MCC)
- Dale Taylor (MCC)
- Jim Shantz (Indigenous Neighbours Program) (MCC)
- Marguerite Jack (Mennonite Mutual Insurance - Constituency Relations)

Introduction of Nominees - Ruth Friesen and Gladys Heidebrecht

#### Committees:

Elizabeth Wall (Edmonton First), Secretary  
Eric Peters (Foothills), Camp Valaqua  
Darrel Heidebrecht (Foothills), Camp Valaqua  
Christine Hansplant (Calgary First), Camp Valaqua  
Christine Koop (Foothills), Finance  
Ryan Dueck (Lethbridge), Congregational Leadership  
Anna-Lisa Salo (Bergthal), Congregational Leadership  
Marie Moyer (Lethbridge), Mission and Service  
Vince Friesen (Edmonton First), Mission and Service  
Coreen Froese (Bergthal), Community Building and Program  
Gladys Heidebrecht (Foothills), Nominating

#### Representatives:

Art Koop, *Canadian Mennonite*  
Suzanne Gross, Palestine-Israel Network  
Margaret Kruger-Harder, Joint Council.

Thanks to those whose service is ending: Ruth Friesen, Jim Moyer, Beth Moyer, Paul Neufeldt, Deanna Willms, Kevin Stoesz.

Worship & Sharing led by Calgary Chin Christian Church, remarks by Peter Sang  
Prayer for Calgary Chin Christian Church - Anna-Lisa Salo

#### **Business Session**

Year in Review Power Point  
MCBC greetings - Garry Janzen, Executive Minister  
MC Canada video & update - Doug Klassen, Executive Minister  
Joint Council Rep Report - Margaret Kruger-Harder  
CMU Video & Greetings from Terry Schellenberg  
Introduction of and Prayer for Ken and Gwen Wellington, Love Wins Cranbrook - Tim Wiebe-Neufeld  
Constitution/Bylaw Discussion - Paul Neufeldt

**6. Special Resolution: Be it resolved that MCA approve in principle the proposed changes to the MCA Constitution and Bylaws as found in the document titled "MCA Constitution and Bylaws for Approval - Revised March 10 2021" for submission to Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).**

**Moved: Paul Neufeldt, Lethbridge**

**Seconded: Wayne Janz, Calgary First**

**Passed.**

Questions for all programs / Report on Feedback from Workshops

Approval of Last Year's Minutes

Resolutions:

**1. Be it resolved that MCA approve the minutes from the March 28, 2020 Annual Delegate Sessions, as presented in the Report Book.**

**Moved: Elizabeth Wall, Edmonton First**

**Seconded: Werner De Jong, Holyrood**

**Passed.**

Approval of 2020 Audited Financial Statements

**2. Be it resolved that MCA adopt the 2020 audited financial statements as distributed.**

**Moved: Wayne Janz, Calgary First**

**Seconded: Kate Janzen, Foothills**

**Passed.**

Approval of Auditors for 2021 Fiscal Year

**4. Be it resolved that MCA appoint Aperture Chartered Professional Accountants as auditors for 2021.**

**Moved: Wayne Janz, Calgary First**

**Seconded: Coreen Froese, Bergthal**

**Passed.**

Presentation of 2021 Budget - Wayne Janz

Approval of 2021 Budget

**3. Be it resolved that MCA adopt the 2021 budget as presented in the Report Book and amended.**

**Moved: Wayne Janz, Calgary First**

**Seconded: Vincent Friesen, Edmonton First**

**Amendment to add \$3,000 to budget for Camp facility upgrades. Moved: Joani Neufeldt, Lethbridge, Seconded: Wayne Janz, Calgary First. Passed. Passed.**

Approval of Nominations

**5. Be it resolved that MCA approve the Nominations as presented.**

**Moved: Ruth Friesen, Edmonton First**

**Seconded: Gladys Heidebrecht, Foothills**

**Passed.**

Commissioning of Volunteers - Tim Wiebe-Neufeld (Executive Minister)

Announcements

**Lunch Break 12:00-1:00**

**Worship & E3 Year 2**

Worship led by Chin Church

E3 Year 2 by Werner De Jong

Closing of Sessions

Closing Worship led by Chin Church



# 2022 Resolutions

1. Be it resolved that MCA approve the minutes from the March 20, 2021 Annual Delegate Sessions, as presented in the Report Book.
2. Be it resolved that MCA adopt the 2021 audited financial statements as distributed.
3. Be it resolved that MCA adopt the 2022 budget as presented in the Report Book.
4. Be it resolved that MCA approve the Nominations as presented.
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.





Brenda Tiessen-Wiens

## MODERATOR

I had the opportunity to get a sneak peak at the Report Book, which led me to shift gears on what I would share in this report. My original plan was to share “good news,” but Tim stole my thunder on that! As I read through summaries of all that our staff, committees and partners have been working on in the past year and plans they have for the future, it felt like there was little that I could add. I encourage you to delve into what they’ve written, offer feedback, share ideas and words of affirmation to them. Showing interest and support, particularly in areas that we may not be involved in ourselves, is a significant way that we can open our eyes to all that God is doing around us.

The more visible aspects of our ministries are easy to see, to talk about and to write stories about. Pictures of campfires, building renovations, people from different cultures with big smiles and embracing in a hug, youthful bursary recipients and visuals of COVID donation campaigns draw us in and make us feel good about our contributions.

It’s more difficult to capture people’s imaginations around the significance of the identity we share as a community of twelve congregations. It’s more difficult to capture how exploring faith together shapes our collective journey, or how being part of a broader faith family attracts participants to our pews and helps call pastors to our pulpits.

It bears reminding that being on this journey together makes us stronger. Being on the journey together provides our congregational leaders with the support that’s needed when we encounter a crisis like a pandemic, or the challenge of being at a crossroads as a congregation, or how to tap into the resources needed to embark on a new project or ministry. Highlight reels don’t include clips of intangibles, like how significant it was to know that your congregation was upheld in prayer last Sunday. Viral posts don’t include images of pastors exploring faith together, or congregations being enriched and challenged because of their pastor’s experience in that group.

Each of these experiences happened this past year in MCA. Each of them will happen, again, in 2022. I mention them because they take place largely behind the scenes. Yet they are core experiences and expressions of our shared journey and shared identity. They are central to what it means to be a community of congregations.

I could go on in talking about the hidden happenings in MCA, but I also need to draw attention to some actions that took place in 2021 and things to look forward to in 2022. This is just a snapshot of activities. If you’d like more details, I’d be pleased to have coffee, chat on zoom or on the phone with you!

#### Getting Down to Business:

- Constitution & Bylaws – The final registration is not confirmed, yet, but we believe it's close! A summary of Executive and General Council actions can be found in a separate report, including a motion for acceptance of those actions.
- As you may be aware, finding people to serve on our committees can be a challenge. Extra support for the Nominating Committee from Executive was needed in 2021. Each person who responded to a call to share their gifts on a committee or partner board elicited a celebration!
- Policy Manual – The review of the MCA Policy Manual didn't take place. Other items took precedence, like the more exciting work of hiring Steven and Suzanne and working through some important areas of MC Canada governance.
- In 2020 MC Canada initiated the Sustainability Leadership Group to explore how MC Canada, our Regions and our congregations can grow towards environmental, social and economic sustainability. "God's Green Church," a resource for congregations, was released in fall 2021. More recently, six initiatives were identified to engage in climate action.
- Regional Churches decided to wait until the completion of the governance review before renewing the MC Canada Covenant. Signing is anticipated in October 2022.

#### Looking Forward:

- Camp "Dreaming Group" – This is a recent initiative that General Council has given its support. The group is accountable to Executive, but includes Camp Committee members and is closely connecting with camp staff. The group is exploring opportunities to draw more people, more often, to the peace and the vibrancy of nature at Camp.
- North Edmonton Ministry – When appointing Suzanne to an interim position during a pandemic, we were probably overly optimistic about what could be accomplished in six months. Although some good vision is emerging, more time is needed. Delegate sessions will include a time to invite your thoughts and ideas around shaping this ministry.
- 2022 will be a summer of gathering and growing together as a nationwide community. "We Declare" will be held July 29 - Aug 1 in Edmonton and the "Amplify" youth gathering will be July 31 - Aug 4 at Camp Valaqua.
- Mennonite World Conference is being planned for July in Indonesia. Our global fellowship consists of 58 countries, 107 national churches, 10,000 congregations and 1.47 million baptized believers. In the midst of a global pandemic this is reason to celebrate and to be reminded that you are not alone!

As you return to your congregations following delegate sessions, I encourage you to share information and stories. Share what you learned in workshops. Talk about what the commitments we make to one another mean to you, to our congregations, to our ministries and to our partners. Create opportunities to share what you've seen and heard. Create opportunities to fellowship with people from other congregations and commit to praying and growing together as we explore how we will encounter, embrace and embody Christ in 2022.

*Brenda Tiessen-Wiens*  
Moderator





Tim Wiebe-Neufeld

## EXECUTIVE MINISTER

It has been a challenging year. I am sure we are all tired of pandemic restrictions, zoom meetings, and physical distancing. Current events have given the impression of an increasingly polarized world. Problems such as social isolation, economic disparity, the degradation of creation, and intercultural division seem to have few handles to address them. In the midst of all this we are called to be people of Good News, encountering, embracing, and embodying the light that is Jesus Christ.

In spite of the challenges of our time, and the frustrations that go along with them, when I look back on this past year I see so many examples of Good News:

**Good News in the connections we share as Mennonite Church Alberta!** In my role there are so many ways I have seen God at work through the connections we share as a community of faith:

- On March 21 an MCA-wide zoom worship service was attended by 400 people. I look forward to worshipping together again as part of our 2022 Annual Delegate Sessions.
- Prayerful meetings of congregational leaders, including ongoing zoom gatherings with pastors, and special meetings with church moderators, church administrators, and church treasurers.
- This fall it has been a joy to worship in person with several congregations, including services of commissioning for Werner and Joanne De Jong for their MC Canada Witness in Ethiopia, a licensing service for Steven Giugovaz into his role as Church Engagement Minister, and services celebrating our International Witness relationships at Holyrood and the South Sudanese Mennonite Church.

**Good News in amazing ministries we share.** My role includes providing support at the Regional Church and nationwide level; supporting pastors and other congregational leaders; and helping build our identity as the body of Christ alive and at work in the world. Within Alberta my involvements include:

- Walking with congregations as they seek new pastoral leadership, and walking alongside pastors as they provide leadership in their congregations. The pastors of MCA are deeply committed to their faith community, both at the local and the broader church level. It is always a joy to connect, whether on zoom, at retreats and events, and one-on-one.
- Working closely with Ruth Bergen Braun as Communications Coordinator and Steven Giugovaz as Church Engagement Minister. Together we form a team that covers important functions in being the church together, providing a strong ministry structure fleshed out by the involvement of MCA's congregations and individuals.

- Supporting the ministry at Camp Valaqua. This past summer it was great to once again be a part of a commissioning for the camp staff as they prepared to welcome campers back for the summer. Camp continues to be a powerful place for children, youth, and young adults to experience God in community and grow in faith.
- Supporting the transition of the North Edmonton Ministry after the retirement of Donna Entz. The interfaith and intercultural relationship-building continues under Interim Director Suzanne Gross.
- Supporting the building of the church around the world through MC Canada International Witness. After a long and winding road it was good to see Werner and Joanne De Jong from Holyrood begin their service at the Meserete Kristos Seminary in Ethiopia.

**Good News in the ministries we share as the nationwide church.** In-person meetings resumed for MC Canada's Executive Staff Group, including three meetings in the fall. Reconnecting with MC Canada Leadership and my Regional Church counterparts has given renewed energy to the ministry we share. These include:

- Continued connection and support for the global church. Through MC Canada International Witness we share relationships with Anabaptist-Mennonite churches in 13 countries, and relate to over 100 Anabaptist-related groups through Mennonite World Conference. I hope to attend the MWC Assembly in early July, although the pandemic may limit involvement to online.
- Providing online worship services to be shared across Canada. Each week during the summer congregations and individuals could tune into a worship service provided by one of MC Canada's 225 congregations. Trinity Mennonite, Foothills Mennonite, and First Mennonite Edmonton all provided worship services that were shared nationwide.
- Responding to urgent issues of justice and care for the vulnerable in our time. These include the reconciliation work conducted through the Indigenous-Settlers Relations program; a developing program focused on sustainability issues, care for creation, and climate change; and further focus on peacebuilding efforts in the midst of an increasingly polarized society.
- Connecting together as the broader faith community. Planning for the 2022 Gathering in Edmonton is well-underway. It is hoped that many from across Alberta and across our country will come together for this special event, whether people are able to join in person or will be taking part online.

**Good News in our risen Christ.** In 2021 MCA's theme of "Encountering, Embracing, Embodying Christ in Community" emphasized our connection to each other. While the COVID-19 pandemic has made it more difficult to be together in person, there are so many ways we have been able to continue to connect and be the church. This coming year our theme calls us to look outward as we **Encounter, Embrace, and Embody Christ in the World.**

I pray that in the year to come we may live into this calling, and in doing so more fully **experience, recognize, and share Christ's Good News!**

Tim Wiebe-Neufeld, Executive Minister



Steven Giugovaz



## CHURCH ENGAGEMENT MINISTER

As I reflect on my first few months as Church Engagement Minister, I am overcome with feelings of gratitude. I am so grateful to have been granted this opportunity to work with you all, and for the ways in which you have made me feel so welcomed. It is always a little nerve-racking when we set out to meet new people and build relationships, but you have all helped to make that so much easier.

As Church Engagement Minister, it is my role to help congregations and individuals consider how they engage with the ministries we share; with other congregations of our faith family; and with their neighbourhoods/people around them. Within this, there are three main areas of focus: supporting, articulating and advancing God's mission within the ministries of MCA and MCA congregations, building relationships with and amongst congregations and nurturing financial support of MCA.

Supporting, articulating and advancing God's mission within the ministries of MCA and MCA congregations is all about the greater vision and mission that God has entrusted to us and discerning how we, as individuals and as a community, can live out of and into this vision. As someone new to the team, I am still in the process of better familiarizing myself with all of this through meetings, conversations and, of course, prayer, so that I can faithfully represent this vision as I visit and engage with the individuals, congregations and ministries that together make up MCA.

This is why my first few months have been largely focused on developing my relationships with my MCA family. To do this, I have been having initial visits with our church and ministry leaders, as well as with congregations and individuals that focus on providing a space where we can start to get to know each other. This helps me to begin building the relationships that I believe are foundational to everything else I do, especially in regards to the nurturing of financial support.

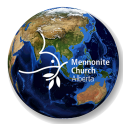
To paraphrase Henri Nouwen, fundraising ought to be about declaring a vision, and inviting others to be a part of that vision by investing themselves and/or resources into the work that God has called us to. For me, this means fundraising is less about asking for money, and more about nurturing and fostering relationships by inviting others to become more connected to, and engaged with, the missional work that God has entrusted to us.

One of the ways in which I get to do this is by attending International Witness Support Network meetings where updates are provided about some of the ministries that we are involved in. For example, because of your generous donations, we were able to send Werner and Joanne De Jong to Ethiopia to provide support at Meserete Kristos Seminary as they work to train up the next generation of Christian leaders. In Burkina Faso, after 30+ years of work, the Burkinabé Bible translators are nearing the completion of translating the entire New Testament into the Siamou language. Also, in Thailand, Tom and Christine Poovong, alongside other local leaders, have worked to bring together over 40 worshiping groups. As Henri Nouwen notes, “a healthy community gives us a place of belonging so that we can live in such a way that benefits us and others”, and these are just a few of the examples of how our MCA community has been working together to benefit the world around us.

As Church Engagement Minister, I strive to share these ministry updates with you, while also working to create more opportunities for individuals and congregations to engage with them. As I do this, I hope we will all come to feel more connected to the amazing work that God is doing through us. For, in Christ, we are one body, and in the body, the work of one is the work of all (1 Cor. 12:12-27).,

As I move forward, I am excited to see what God has in store for us. Once I wrap up my initial round of visits, I look forward to returning to congregations for speaking engagements and to working to create more opportunities for individuals and congregations to engage with each other and the ministries we share. If you have any questions or would just like to say hi, please, feel free to reach out and contact me at [engage@mcab.ca](mailto:engage@mcab.ca). I would love to connect!

Respectfully submitted by Steven Giugovaz, Church Engagement Minister





Ruth Bergen Braun

## COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Although I had hoped to meet more of you, the MCA faith family in person in this my second year as Communications Coordinator, I am grateful that there have been at least a few in-person meetings. We still seem to spend more time looking at screens than meeting over a cup of coffee.

A highlight this year was experiencing the presence of God in our Joint Worship service as part of our 2021 Annual Delegate sessions. We were, of course, all in our own homes, and yet there was a spirit of unity and celebration radiating from our computer screens. Thank you to everyone who worked hard to make both our Annual Delegate Sessions and the worship service come alive by Zoom.

I have enjoyed getting to know many of you as you have written *Menno Minutes*, *Our Stories*, and the short snippets *One Good Thing*. I often joke that every few weeks I shake the MCA tree hoping writers fall out and it seems they do. Thank you to all those who said “yes” when I asked.

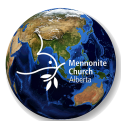
Interviewing and then writing the short articles on Ron Janzen, Rudy Wiens, and George Heidebrecht was fun! I hope to spotlight more *Camp people* in the next year. I’m open to suggestions who I should contact! My working title is for the next series *Secrets of the Camp Kitchen*.

Working with the E3 reference group has given me an opportunity to stretch my graphic design skills. What can we do visually to invite people to embrace the E3 vision? How can we create material that congregations will find useful? I enjoyed the challenge of using our website’s capabilities to create the Advent Calendar. The Google Analytics showed that MCA people did use the calendar as part of their Advent preparation. Watch for a new one next Advent.

I am also part of the Community Building/Program committee and appreciate their energy as they find ways to engage the MCA community – even with the challenges of COVID. Community Building and Program hosted a successful Heritage Retreat on Zoom in September, they plan the Annual Delegate Sessions, and hope to organize a CMU Portable in spring. Watch for that!

I was able to spend a few days in Kitchener, Ontario with the ESG and the other regional communicators last September. Meeting in person always helps create a sense of being part of a team.

I continue to ponder the Menno Minute I wrote early in work with MCA, where I wrote about communication being multi-directional. I do pass on information from MC Canada and MCA using primarily the MCA Communiqué to do so, but I also, thanks to the contributions from writers in our community, have the opportunity to say *THIS* is who we are. I am grateful for that privilege.



# FINANCE REPORT

## **MCA 2021 Financial Results**

The pandemic continued to impact MCA financially in 2021. Last year at this time, we highlighted several assumptions that we used to prepare our 2021 budget. Some of those assumptions were on the mark. Others were not. The ones that were on the mark were the easy ones to predict, like reduced travel, cancellation of the Women's Retreat, and additional costs for pandemic safety measures at Camp Valaqua.

Others assumptions were like lines drawn in the sand. An educated guess at best, that could move either way. We were able to increase our camp capacity limits to over 60% from the 50% we had planned. We thought most rental groups would return in April, but they did not. We had expected government supports to be minimal as the pandemic wound down, but the pandemic curved up instead. That upward curve lead to over \$40,000 more in government support than we had forecast.

Other events were not foreseen at all. The most significant in this category was Donna Entz's resignation from her leadership role in the North Edmonton Ministry.

The hardest prediction to make with accuracy in any year, is the amount of donations to expect. In this, our expectations were exceeded. Our congregational support was \$2,000 higher than budget. Likewise, individual donations to MCA general programs was also \$2,000 higher than expected. The biggest difference though was in donations to the camp program. Here we received \$46,000 more than anticipated!

We are extremely grateful to all who supported us financially in the year, and to our God who laid the generosity on their hearts!

We had planned for a deficit of \$75,200 in 2021. Due to the generous support and keeping costs under budget, we ended the year with a \$34,800 surplus. This surplus continues to strengthen our balance sheet, with our unrestricted reserves now totalling, \$393,000.

## **MCA 2021 Proposed Budget**

We expect the pandemic to continue to play a factor in MCA's financial plans for 2022. As of mid February, we are seeing a lifting of restrictions, with further loosening planned in the coming weeks. We have taken these into account in our yearly budget, but we still face significant uncertainty in our forecasting for the months ahead.

We are expecting to see some curtailing of in-person gatherings. We know our Annual Delegates Session will be on-line and the Women's Retreat will again not run this year. However, we are hopeful for more in-person gatherings, starting with the All Committees meeting in April. We are cautiously planning to run our summer camp program at 60% capacity, and predicting camp rental revenues will more than double that of 2021. For the North Edmonton Ministry, we plan to extend the interim project coordinator role for another year as we sort through the long-term future of the program.



Our 2022 budget calls for a \$73,300 deficit. Although our Unrestricted Reserve Fund balance of \$393,000 can support the shortfall, we also know that ongoing deficit budgets are not sustainable. Our future financial planning needs to address this through either increasing income, decreasing costs, or a combination of both.

Our MCA General Council is recommending a greater focus on fundraising. Most of our congregations tell us that their contributions to provincial programs will remain flat or decrease in the coming years. Therefore, MCA will appeal to individuals for the funds necessary to continue current programs. We will aim to increase individual donations to \$80,000 in 2022. Audited financial statements will be available in mid March and can be forwarded on request.

### **MCA 2021 Financial Statements and 2022 Proposed Budget**

The statements below are prepared for the 2022 MCA Annual Delegates Session. They do not include amortization nor depreciation.

#### **Year Over Year Income Comparison (unaudited) Before Amortization and Depreciation As of December 31, 2021**

	<b>2018 Actual</b>	<b>2019 Actual</b>	<b>2020 Actual</b>	<b>2021 Actual</b>	<b>2022 Budget</b>
Income	\$839,796	\$811,948	\$715,914	\$803,374	\$764,300
Expenses	833,444	834,998	620,920	768,540	837,600
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$6,352</b>	<b>-\$23,049</b>	<b>\$94,994</b>	<b>\$34,834</b>	<b>-\$73,300</b>

**Year Over Year Balance Sheet Comparison (unaudited)**  
**Before Amortization and Depreciation**  
**As of December 31, 2021**

	<b>2018 Actual</b>	<b>2019 Actual</b>	<b>2020 Actual</b>	<b>2021 Actual</b>	<b>2022 Forecast</b>
Assets					
Current Assets					
Unrestricted Fund	\$350,511	\$256,228	\$326,091	\$393,265	\$317,900
Campership Fund	0	0	6,755	0	0
Camp Upgrade Fund	-12,844	1,111	3,035	18,692	48,700
Leadership Fund	2,614	2,314	1,984	1,984	1,000
Church Planting Fund	2,600	200	0		0
Youth Ministry Fund	3,260	0	0		0
Youth Leadership Fund	1,846	955	0		0
Total Current Assets	347,987	260,808	337,866	413,941	351,700
Fixed Assets	807,776	813,276	750,007	765,430	724,600
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$1,155,763</b>	<b>\$1,074,084</b>	<b>\$1,087,872</b>	<b>\$1,179,371</b>	<b>\$1,443,900</b>
Liabilities and Equity					
Current Liabilities	\$140,604	\$81,699	\$9,143	\$48,423	\$45,000
Equity	1,015,159	992,385	1,078,729	1,130,948	1,398,900
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>\$1,155,763</b>	<b>\$1,074,084</b>	<b>\$1,087,872</b>	<b>\$1,179,371</b>	<b>\$1,443,900</b>

**Summary Budget Statement (unaudited)**  
**2021 Actual Results as of December 31**  
**Before Amortization and Depreciation**

	<b>2021 Actual</b>	<b>2021 Budget</b>	<b>2022 Budget</b>
Income			
Church Contributions	\$318,993	\$318,600	\$321,900
Individual Contributions	71,551	69,500	80,000
Witness Relational Funding	23,902	25,000	25,000
Camp Income	281,602	248,200	301,100
Other Income	107,325	81,200	33,300
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$803,374</b>	<b>\$742,500</b>	<b>\$761,300</b>
Expenses			
Operating Expenses	\$385,506.03	\$439,900.00	\$427,000.00
Camp Expenses	383,034	377,800	410,600
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>768,540</b>	<b>817,700</b>	<b>837,600</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$34,834</b>	<b>-\$75,200</b>	<b>-\$73,300</b>

**Detailed Budget Statement (unaudited)  
2021 Actual Results as of December 31  
Before Amortization and Depreciation**

	<b>2021 Actual</b>	<b>2021 Budget</b>	<b>2022 Budget</b>
<b>Income</b>			
Revenue - Church Donations			
Calgary Chin	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Calgary - First	31,000	30,000	30,000
Calgary - Foothills	100,000	100,000	100,000
Calgary - Trinity	12,500	12,500	12,500
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	99,030	97,700	103,000
Edmonton - Holyrood	5,475	5,500	5,500
Edmonton - South Sudanese	500	500	500
Lethbridge	42,000	42,000	42,000
Pincher Creek - Springridge	18,388	20,000	18,000
Total Church Donations	\$318,993	\$318,600	\$321,900
Individual Donations	71,551	69,500	80,000
Relational Witness Donations	23,902	25,000	25,000
MC Canada Funding	4,715	10,000	3,000
Snow Camp	0	3,000	0
Total Missions & Services	38,843	48,200	30,000
Total Community Building	287	1,700	0
Total Congregational Leadership	1,091	3,000	3,000
Interest	237	300	300
Other Income	62,153	15,000	0
Total Camp Valaqua	281,602	248,200	301,100
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$803,374</b>	<b>\$742,500</b>	<b>\$764,300</b>

<b>Expenses</b>			
MC Canada – Relational Witness	\$21,502	\$25,000	\$25,000
MC Canada - Operations	75,000	75,000	75,000
MC World Conference	0	0	7,000
MC Canada - Assembly	0	1,000	3,000
Canadian Mennonite University	20,000	20,000	20,000
Rosthern Junior College	12,000	12,000	12,000
Canadian Mennonite magazine	9,305	9,500	8,900
Mennonite Historical Society	1,000	1,000	1,000
Occupancy - Exec Min Office	3,600	3,600	3,600
Liability Insurance	2,792	2,800	2,800
MCA Fundraising	0	1,500	1,500
Office Supplies	5,932	9,500	6,500
Online donation service fees	510	700	700
Snow Camp & Planning Expenses	0	3,000	3,000
Uncategorized Expenses	12,600	0	0
Executive Committee Expenses	1,970	1,500	1,500
Executive Minister Salary	82,393	82,400	85,000
Executive Minister Benefits	11,497	11,500	11,900
Executive Minister Expenses	1,965	6,000	7,500
Church Engagement Min - Salary	8,274	25,000	30,900
Church Engagement Min – Expenses	2,384	0	5,000
Communication Coord - salary	27,170	28,200	28,400
Communications Expenses	2,555	1,100	3,000
Professional Development -staff	91	4,600	4,600
Professional Legal Fees	7,534	8,500	0
Total Missions & Service Committee	43,576	68,400	40,000
Total Community Building Expense	5,385	7,400	7,700
Financial Services	17,752	17,600	18,400
Audit Fees	7,688	8,500	8,500
Finance Committee - Other	0	200	200
Total Congregational Leadership Exp.	1,034	4,000	4,000

Personnel Committee	0	200	200
Nominating Committee	0	200	200
Total Camp Valaqua - Operating	383,034	377,800	410,600
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>768,540</b>	<b>817,700</b>	<b>837,600</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$34,834</b>	<b>-\$75,200</b>	<b>-\$73,300</b>



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, North Edmonton 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.



# MISSIONS & SERVICE REPORT

Meeting in person has not been possible for the Mission and Service Committee during this time of Covid but this has not stopped work from progressing. Thankfully, technologies such as Zoom have allowed our committee to keep contact with each other and connect with the staff who continue the important work of MCA.

Changes in North Edmonton Ministries has been a major focus of Mission and Service over the last year. Donna Entz retired in the spring of 2021 after a decade of selfless commitment in North Edmonton. We thank Donna for the amazing work she has done in connecting our community to the new comers to Canada, bridging cultural, linguist and religious divides. On behalf of MCA, Mission and Service Committee wishes Donna and Lorne God's blessing as they explore next stages (retirement?) in Winnipeg.

To fill the gap left with Donna's leaving, the NEM Advisory Committee recommended that Suzanne Gross temporarily fill the position while decisions were made regarding the future of NEM. Suzanne generously offered to volunteer in a role that would keep Donna's connections active as MCA decided where to go with NEM. During this time, Mission and Service developed an interim job description for the coordinator of NEM. On the basis of this job description, Suzanne was offered a 6 month interim position in September. Suzanne was tasked with expanding the program beyond North Edmonton including Calgary and Southern Alberta. She was also asked to come up with a plan that would show how this program would be transformed into a more permanent program beyond the 6 month interim program. (Suzanne's report to follow.) Thank you Suzanne for your stepping forward to allow us to continue the significant work that Donna Entz began.

Mission and Service work has continued in Calgary as well. Jake Froese with assistance from Suzanne has been building connections with Calgary's Muslim Community. Suzanne has organized PCCI (Peacemakers Confessing Christ International) sessions that examine interfaith relationships. Jake Froese is an MCA representative on the Calgary Interfaith Council that brings leaders of different faith groups together. Jake has also continued working with members of Calgary's South Sudanese Community who want a connection with Mennonites.

Mission and Service is happy to report that Joanne and Werner DeJong have finally made it to Ethiopia where Werner will be teaching at the Meserete Kristos Seminary. Mission and Service has been advocating for this initiative for several years and is thankful that this Mennonite Church Canada Witness project has come to fulfillment.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Vince Friesen  
Chair of Mission and Service







Suzanne Gross

## INTERIM WORKER, NORTH EDMONTON MINISTRY

Looking to the future in hope:

It is my hope that the stories I share below and through the NEM blog postings might offer all of us insights and imagination that can guide Mennonite Church Alberta in this work. NEM is fundamentally about imagining and embracing the Biblical invitation to welcome the stranger into our lives and into our communities. And in getting to know the stranger, we get to know ourselves as disciples of Jesus in new and powerful ways, and are able to spread this good news in authentic ways. May we all forge spirit-led pathways in our communities for this work to take root – for the good of us all.

The Activities of 2021:

North Edmonton Ministries (NEM) has had a year of adapting and transition. After a successful on-line dialogue in fall of 2020, A Common Word Alberta (ACWAB), the umbrella group driving the interfaith dialogue activities, organized a series of mini dialogues to offer additional opportunities for people of different faiths to come together. As well, Scriptural Reasoning continued with monthly meetings bringing the three Abrahamic faiths together to explore common themes through their scriptures.

April and May gave us an opportunity as a whole province to explore a framework for interfaith dialogue: Peacemakers Confessing Christ International (PCCI). A group of Mennonite Church Alberta folks gathered Saturdays to follow a series that explored Hospitality, Dialogue, Peace-making and Witness. All participants agreed that the framework offers a beautiful way for authentic sharing of faith in an interfaith context. We are offering the series to Alberta starting January 26, 2022.

All of these activities happened under the leadership of Donna Entz. Donna announced her decision to resign from her position in order to move to Winnipeg to be closer to her children and grandchildren in April, 2021. With this announcement the transition from the ten years of leadership under Donna began!

As a member of the NEM advisory group, and with many of the same relationships and connections Donna developed over these ten years, I had relationships, intercultural experience, and time to walk with Donna through the transition to ensure that the work of NEM might continue to contribute to the Mennonite Church Alberta ministry in our communities.

Apart from learning about the different areas of work, and Donna's hopes for the continuation of the ministry she started, the primary spring and summer activity was to organize gatherings to acknowledge the contribution Donna was able to make through the partnerships and relationships she evolved over the years.

A zoom farewell event was planned for June, 2021 that brought together many of these voices organized around the themes of PCCI. This event brought together a broad community from around the world – a blessing offered by Covid.

In July, volunteers and ESL participants from the Kilkenny Fun with English program gathered outdoors on the grounds of the Emmanuel Community Church, where Donna had developed strong community relationships with newcomers looking for a safe space to explore language and culture. Since October 2021, I have been organizing and coordinating an in-person program with the support of dedicated volunteers three of whom come from our Mennonite church family. We have had interesting inter-cultural exchanges that enrich all of us.

Since September 15, I have been giving leadership to the North Edmonton Ministries program through the various domains Donna lived into. I supported ACWAB in organizing a hybrid interfaith dialogue for October 30, 2021. (See blog posting at <https://mcab.ca/NEMblogNovACWAB2021>) Scriptural Reasoning continues to meet and learn from each other on topics close to our hearts. An exciting initiative I have been able to support is a collaboration between MCC Alberta, Islamic Family Social Services Association and our MCC Thrift store. This collaboration is slowly getting off the ground – slowed down by Covid. The vision is to offer opportunity for the Muslim community to donate and shop for modest clothing as well as developing skills through volunteering.

November 11 marked the annual Edmonton Remembrance Day Peace Walk. After skipping a year due to Covid, the interfaith reflections that came together helped us speak into the violence in our communities and world in a powerful way. Reflections on this experience can be found at <https://mcab.ca/cell/richtext/default/id/10524>.

Part of the work of NEM is joining projects that are interfaith expressions of faith principles of mercy and love in our communities. In late December and early January, I joined the volunteer pool of Al Rashid Mosque to support the emergency shelter for homeless people during the very cold days. A reflection on this experience can be found at <https://mcab.ca/cell/richtext/default/id/10585>.

Hopefully, this report offers a taste of the ministry offered our communities through the varied activities and experiences of 2021.

Respectfully submitted by Suzanne Gross, North Edmonton Ministries Interim Worker, Mennonite Church Alberta



# CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The members of the Congregational Leadership Committee (CLC) for 2021 consisted of Tim Wiebe-Neufeld, Werner De Jong (chair), Anna-Lisa Salo (secretary), and Ryan Dueck. Werner stepped away from his role on CLC in August in order to focus on his transition to Ethiopia with International Witness. Caleb Kowalko agreed to come on board in the fall. Due to busy schedules and time constraints, the members of the committee agreed to share the role of Chair. Anna-Lisa is the CLC representative on the General Council, Ryan looks after logistical concerns, and Caleb is responsible for signing authority for expenses. CLC met six times throughout the year.

The purpose of CLC is to assist in the equipping of congregational leaders for their task and especially work with and support the Executive Minister. This statement of purpose distils a variety of responsibilities down to one broad stroke. During 2021, CLC was very busy attending to these duties.

1. CLC may assist member congregations with plans or problems in which MCA involvement may be beneficial.
  - While confidentiality prohibits CLC from publicly reporting certain issues that surfaced during the year, CLC endeavours to prayerfully respond with wisdom, care, and compassion when called to walk alongside congregations. Issues are processed with Tim Wiebe-Neufeld as he connects with and supports congregations in his Executive Minister role.
  - Bergthal MC is entering into discussion about the potential for developing its property.
  - Holyrood MC is seeking discernment for future direction following Werner's departure.
2. Participate in the call, ordination, evaluation, transfer, termination, credentialing, and de-credentialing of pastors.
  - CLC met twice via Zoom for exit interviews with Werner De Jong (Holyrood MC) and Donna Dinsmore (interim, Foothills MC). These interviews provide space for reflection on one's ministry, support in a time of transition, and discernment around future direction.
  - Credentialing for Reuben Tut (South Sudanese MC) and Tom and Christine Poovong (Witness workers with MC Canada) is in process. The credentialing process is an opportunity to provide mutual support and accountability for pastors as we live into being MC Alberta together.
  - CLC welcomed Steve Giugovaz via Zoom as he began his new role as Church Engagement Minister and processed his credential of Licensing Towards Ordination.
  - Early in 2022, CLC welcomed and met with Bill Christieson for a licensing interview.

3. Review applications of congregations wishing to become MCA members or wishing to discontinue their membership in MCA.
  - CLC has discussed MC Alberta's role in relation to Ken and Gwen Wellington. Tim continued to maintain contact with them, although health concerns and the pandemic prevented any movement forward. We are saddened by the report of Gwen's recent passing and hold Ken and their family in our prayers.
4. Organize, publicize, and conduct an annual conference/retreat for congregational leaders.
  - The Pastors Council met at Camp Valaqua in the Fall for an in-person overnight retreat. The retreat centred around personal sharing and spiritual reflection and the opportunity for mutual support was welcomed by all. Ample time was allowed for personal physical, emotional, and spiritual rest and renewal.
  - A resource workshop led by Tim Nickel was organized for the Pastors Council in the summer. The workshop centred around managing Covid-related stress.
  - The Pastors Council met five times during the year via Zoom.
5. CLC shall organize, publicize and conduct an annual Theological Studies event for leaders and anyone else who might be interested.
  - CLC organized a spring Faith Studies event led by Gerald Gerbrandt from CMU. The theme was *Denominations - Who needs them?* Over 50 people attended this Zoom event.
6. Organize and strongly encourage pastor exchanges and, if possible, congregational exchanges with other MCA congregations.
  - Due to Covid-19 restrictions, in-person exchanges were not possible. We all long for the day when we can once again meet face to face, visit each other's churches, and sing our hearts out to God without the need for masks. In the meantime, we do what we can to keep our churches thriving and hopeful in the midst of this pandemic.

Looking forward, The Pastors Council will meet again on March 8th and plans for another Faith Studies event this spring is being discussed.

Submitted on behalf of CLC  
Anna-Lisa Salo



# COMMUNITY BUILDING & PROGRAM REPORT

In 2021 the Community Building and Program & Festival Committee continued to find ways to keep us connected, through online gatherings, congregational stories and bursaries for students.

We were able to provide bursaries to 3 Post Secondary students from MCA congregations: Elijah Koop, Bryant Neufeldt and Danika Warkentin are all attending CMU. Look for stories from them in upcoming MCA Communiques.

We continued gathering stories and Menno Minutes for the MCA Communique, learning more about each other. With the hiring of Steve Giugovaz as Church Engagement Minister, we hope to collaborate to bring you more stories.

In September we held the Heritage Retreat and were very happy to have Ed Olfert talk to us about Living Life Lustily. Using stories from his many years of building relationships with individuals who are incarcerated he described living lustily as living with joy, hope, passion and thankfulness, and having fun doing it. He also talked about the qualities that reflect living life lustily: humility, sense of humour, curiosity. We were also reminded of the importance of giving and receiving blessing, which Ed described as a reminder that you are a holy being belonging to God, carrying God's gifts. These gifts we share with each other. May 2022 be a year we are reminded of the gifts we see in others and others see in us.

We look forward to a Portable CMU presentation from Delmar Epp in May/June, coordinating with the E3 theme of Encountering, Embracing and Embodying Christ in the world.

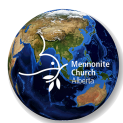
Another large part of this committee's work is planning the Annual Delegate Sessions. Last year it was planned from the beginning as a virtual event. Workshops that would normally have been held on the Saturday if in person were spread over multiple weekends, with a large turnout to all of them. People that normally would not have been able to attend the ADS due to travel cost and time, were able to. The weekend was capped off with a cross province worship service on Sunday, again with large participation. It was great to be able to involve people from multiple churches throughout the weekend. We took a lot of learning from this event when planning the current ADS.

Submitted by:

Kate Janzen

Karen Janz

Coreen Froese



# PERSONNEL REPORT

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

Two highlights of this past year are:

This year we welcomed Steven Giugovaz as MCA's new Church Engagement Minister. The Personnel Committee collaborated with 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 Steven. We're looking forward to the gifts and energy Steven brings to this new position.

We also said "farewell" to Donna Entz when she retired after many fruitful and inspiring years as the leader and facilitator of the North Edmonton Ministries. The Personnel Committee collaborated with Tim, Brenda, and Vince Friesen (Missions and Service Committee) to create a new role description for an Interim North Edmonton Ministries position - which ultimately resulted in the happy outcome of welcoming Suzanne Gross into this interim position.

Respectfully Submitted

Doug Wiebe: Chair - MCA Personnel Committee



# CAMP VALAQUA COMMITTEE REPORT

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

In 2021, Camp Valaqua experienced a return of the summer camp program after a one year hiatus due to the pandemic. While we made the choice to keep numbers small, with a maximum of 4 campers per cabin, the response to the return of the program was overwhelmingly positive and numerous people expressed to us how meaningful it was that they were able to work, volunteer and/or play at camp again. There were significant hurdles to overcome with changes to the program due to increased public health measures including: masking indoors, administering rapid antigen tests, increased sanitation during and between activities, serving meals family style at cabins, increased frequency of cleaning, reviewing and revising isolation procedures, and ongoing communication with families to be clear about the measures we were taking to ensure the safety of campers, volunteers and staff. The strain this put on the staff was significant and they did an amazing job stepping up to the challenge. The camp committee has been reminded of the importance of the work done at Camp Valaqua and how it plays a pivotal role in the leadership development of youth within MCA.

In 2022, we look forward to another year of summer camp programs and recognize that increased public health measures will impact us for years to come. Our committee has decided to require staff, volunteers and campers be fully vaccinated in order to participate in our summer programs. Our hope is that this will create a safe environment for everyone and will provide an option for children who are immuno-compromised. We have opened registration to the same capacity as 2021 with the hope that we can increase our capacity if it is safe to do so.

Rentals throughout the year have fluctuated along with the waves of the pandemic and access to vaccines. Some larger groups were able to return this year and rentals of the self-contained units by family cohorts were consistent throughout the year. The nature school program that started in 2020 has continued throughout 2021 and will do so in 2022 as well. We are hopeful that school groups and other children's group programs, such as scouts, will be able to return to a more regular and reliable rental source for us. In 2021, we began renting out the yurts with great success and they are quickly being reserved throughout 2022.

We were facing a significant shortfall in our budget in the fall and 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 2021. We are so grateful for the support of MCA and its constituents for stepping up and supporting our camp program, especially through these difficult years of the pandemic.

Submitted by Kathryn Friesen





Jon Olfert

## CAMP VALAQUA DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Camp Valaqua was extremely grateful to have been able to run a camp program in 2021. It was a big challenge and a huge joy to welcome campers back to camp last summer. We adapted and tweaked and modified our program to a place where felt we could safely run a camp program in a pandemic, and we were blessed with a healthy season of summer camp. I don't think I have ever spent so much time preparing for or worked so hard in a summer camp season, but we made it! We are so grateful for all the parents who trust us with their kids and work hard to make sure that trust is earned.

### ***Campers***

Our final number of campers for 2021 was 304 based on a reduced capacity (65%) to allow for more space in our cabins. Most of our programs were full and we had waiting lists on a few of our weeks.

Our ministry opportunities continue to be crystal clear with over 80% of our campers claiming no church affiliation. This is a self reported statistic, and not a "required field" so we expect some sloppiness in this number, but we know from the campers that come that we are working with lots of kids who haven't had a chance to hear stories about Jesus and we are so happy to share them.

We gave out over \$3,700 in campership aid to help 15 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***

We made the decision to suspend our Out-trip program in 2021. The decision was made with the understanding that coping with illness in the backcountry presents extra challenge as well as the need to keep our program simple and focus on putting on a safe program for our participants. We are booking for an out-trip program for 2022 and plan to run a full slate of trips this summer.

### ***Facility Upgrades***

Our yurts are up and running! The yurts are booking for summer, and we already have a number of groups booked in for this coming season. If you are interested in booking our yurts, please contact the camp office.



The lodge has a fresh coat of paint inside and lots of new light fixtures and the Little Brown House (Winterised Cabin) has a new tin roof. With a thin rental season, Jeff has been working on lots of projects and camp has never looked better!

### ***Camp and COVID***

We continue to plan for COVID affected programming in 2022. We are currently booking to 65% camper capacity and anticipating many of the same restrictions that were in place in summer 2021. We are also requiring proof of vaccination from both our staff and campers 5 years of age and up. If you want to read our COVID plans, you can visit <https://campvalaqua.ca/COVID19> and read our detailed, albeit tentative, plans.

### ***Valaqua the rest of the year***

Our rental program has run in fits and starts in 2021. We hosted groups in September, November, and December. We continue to offer a generous cancellation policy with the hope that groups will return as conditions improve. We have had a few groups in the new year, but camp continues to be unusually quiet.



## ***Staff***

Seeing the dedication, growth, and strength in our young staff team continues to be a great joy for me. I was once again blown away by the quality of the youth our conference possesses. They worked so hard and did so with grace and good cheer. You should all be proud of your youth. If you know them, thank them!

### ***Camp Valaqua staff 2021***

#### ***Leadership Support Staff***

**Program Director:** Kaya Thiessen  
**CIT Director:** Cassidy Brown  
**Office Manager:** Rachel Hunsberger  
**PIT Crew Boss:** Jake Sola  
**Camp Gardener:** Jayden Krahn  
**Head Cook:** Helen Schellenberg, Claire Dueck,  
**Assistant Cook:** Elise Feddema, Danika Warkentin

#### **Male Counsellors:**

Noah Thiessen  
Bradley Wiebe  
Jeremy Wiens  
Eli Koop  
Sam Jobson  
Tino Baergen

#### **Male CITs:**

Kyle Wiebe  
Ben Olfert Wiens  
Asher Warkentin  
Patrick Dunn

#### **Female Counsellors:**

Erynn Anderson  
Erica Urbshott  
Danaka Feddema  
Charlene Lauzier  
Chelsea Deren  
Elena Kroeker  
Maria Storkova  
Avery Krahn

#### **Female CITs:**

Sarah King  
Meadow Tribe  
Emma Achtemichuk  
Poppy Seifried  
Leah Anderson  
Delaney Janzen

### ***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** deserves special mention here as he once again (for the ninth summer in a row!) dedicated his entire summer to assisting with maintenance at Valaqua. Thank you, Ron!

**Rudy Wiens** also needs to be mentioned here. Rudy dedicated his fifth 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 theme “Come to the Table” 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 would like to encourage our Conference Churches to continue supporting your pastors, youth pastors, and other leaders in faith to come and serve with us here at Valaqua.

### ***Youth Leadership Team***

I continue to be involved with mentoring the Youth Leadership Team. We hosted a camp day in late January and we look forward to running our annual Snowcamp in late February. It has been so important to rekindle these connections among our youth in these oh-so-strange days.

### ***Conclusion***

It has been a year of huge challenges and amazing support. We were blessed beyond belief by everyone who has offered their time, prayers, and financial assistance to help us enter 2022 ready to go.

Submitted by Jon Olfert, Director



# NOMINATIONS REPORT

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. Thank you to Verna Froese who agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee until March/22.

MCA positions are for 2 years, with a maximum of 3 terms.

Currently, our slate of nominees include:

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

Moderator	Brenda Tiessen-Wiens (3 <sup>rd</sup> term)	2024
Vice Moderator	Peter Sang (1 <sup>st</sup> term)	2023
Secretary	Elizabeth Wall (3 <sup>rd</sup> term)	2023
Finance Chair	Nominee needed	2024

**Personnel** (1 position)

Doug Wiebe (2 <sup>nd</sup> term)	2024
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**Finance Committee** (2 positions needed)

Nominee needed	2023
Nominee needed	2024

**Congregational Leadership Committee** (3 positions plus Executive Minister)

Anna Lisa Salo (2 <sup>nd</sup> term)	2023
Ryan Dueck (2 <sup>nd</sup> term)	2023
Caleb Kowalko (1 <sup>st</sup> term)	2024

**Community Building and Program Committee** (4 positions)

Coreen Froese (3 <sup>rd</sup> term)	2023
Karen Janz (3 <sup>rd</sup> term)	2024
Nominee needed	2024

**Missions & Service Committee** (4 positions)

Vincent Friesen (3 <sup>rd</sup> term)	2023
Jake Froese (3 <sup>rd</sup> term)	2024
Riek Tut (3 <sup>rd</sup> term)	2024
Marie Moyer (1 <sup>st</sup> term)	2023

**Camp Valaqua Committee** (5 positions)

Albert Goerzen (3 <sup>rd</sup> term)	2024
Kathryn Friesen (2 <sup>nd</sup> term)	2024
Christine Hansplant (2 <sup>nd</sup> term)	2023
Eric Peters (1 <sup>st</sup> term)	2023
Darrel Heidebrecht (1 <sup>st</sup> term)	2023

**Nominations Committee** (2 positions needed)

Nominee needed	2023
Nominee needed	2024

**Canadian Mennonite Representative**

Art Koop	2023
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**Joint Council Representative**

Margaret Kruger Harder	2023
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**Palestine Israel Network of Mennonite Church Canada (Rep.)**

Suzanne Gross

**CMU Board: Prairie Regions Representative (3 year term)**

Reece Zablocki	2024
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*There are still some nominations required:*

*Nominations - 2*

*Finance - 2*

*Community Building & Program - 1*

Thank you to Verna Froese, Kate Janzen, Christine Koop, Werner DeJong and Wayne Janz who are stepping down. Your diligence and obvious commitment to MCA is appreciated.

Thank you to those who have agreed to accept a new nomination or to 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,  
Verna Froese & Gladys Heidebrecht



# MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

## JOINT COUNCIL REPORT

I am serving my fourth year as Alberta Representative to Joint Council. Sitting on Joint Council are the five regional\* representatives, the five regional Moderators, and Joint Council Moderator, Assistant Moderator, and Treasurer/Secretary. Joint Council meets a minimum of four times a year, along with the Mennonite Church Canada Executive Minister and the five regional Executive Ministers.

Over the past year, I have attended each quarterly Joint Council meeting, as well as several meetings between. A prime topic over this time has been the governance review. The examination of the governance structure of Mennonite Church Canada that was created in 2017 has included a look at what is working, and what could use adjustment to work better. The intent is to have clearly defined roles and relationships between the various leadership groups and individuals to enhance our ability to attend to God's vision and to effectively work together in service of the church. The review process is coming together well. Making changes in the policies to add clarity and to reflect the adjustments is the next step.

Another focus that has been increasingly emerging over the past years is creation care. At our January meetings, Joint Council approved creation care to officially be designated as a nationwide priority. Along with input from the Sustainability Leadership Group, we have been examining ways that Mennonite Church Canada operations can be done sustainably, and ways to work with congregations to support efforts to do the same. For example, we are looking at the establishment of a carbon offset program.

Over the past few months, Joint Council, along with Mennonite Church Canada staff, and others, participated in the term review of Mennonite Church Canada Executive Minister, Doug Klassen. The term review for the Executive Minister takes place every three years. Firm support was given for Doug Klassen to continue on as Executive Minister for another three year term, which he has agreed to do. Joint Council affirmed the renewal at our January meetings.

Throughout the year, I also attended Mennonite Church Alberta All Committee meetings and General Council meetings, to stay informed of what is going on in our region. In addition, I met with Brenda Tiessen-Wiens (Mennonite Church Alberta Moderator) and Tim Wiebe-Neufeld (Alberta Executive Minister) periodically to share viewpoints and information pertaining to Mennonite Church Canada.

Thank-you for allowing me to serve the church in this capacity.

Margaret Kruger-Harder

\*the five regions of Mennonite Church Canada are British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Eastern Canada



# MCA CONSTITUTION and BYLAWS

## Report of Executive and General Council Activities

A year ago we were celebrating the conclusion of a year of engagement and discussions around MCA's Constitution and Bylaws. This process resulted in updates that were approved in principle at the Annual Delegate Sessions held March 20, 2021. At that time, we reported to delegates that before registering with Alberta Corporate Registry, we would first submit the documents to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), as they occasionally ask for items to be clarified. This was done in mid-July 2021.

CRA responded in August and advised that two changes be made: 1) to Article 3 in the Constitution, and 2) to Article 13 in the Bylaws (see below).

As the Executive Committee reviewed the documents in September and October, a handful of oversights were found and addressed, including a correction of lettering in the "Interpretations" section and a formatting error in Article 10 of the Bylaws, which resulted in a numbering change (see below). We also noticed that the word "semi-annually" had been used to describe future audits. This did not reflect committee or delegate discussions and decisions during the review process, nor did it reflect previous conversations which had taken place at delegate sessions over the last number of years. Intentions were to change audits to every two years, and not to twice a year. Before submitting the documents to Alberta Corporate Registry, the word "semi-annually" was changed to "on a biennial basis" in the three places where it appeared (see below).

The Constitution and Bylaws were then submitted to Alberta Corporate Registry, but returned in early November because it was not clear to them that MCA's use of the term of "Moderator" reflected that this individual serves as the "Chair" of the organization. This was discussed at the November meeting of General Council, along with the previous corrections that were made by Executive. General Council approved adding the definition of "Moderator" to the "Interpretations" section, and for consistency three other changes and clarifications of these terms were made (see below).

The documents were re-submitted to Alberta Corporate Registry, accepted and registered on December 10, 2021. They were submitted for registration with Canada Revenue Agency in January 2022. The document was accepted, but they required a certified letter signed by three Directors to accompany the document. This has been addressed, and we anticipate receiving confirmation that we are, indeed, at the end of this process soon! The final version of the Constitution and Bylaws is dated November 11, 2021 and can be found on the MCA website: [mcab.ca](http://mcab.ca).

## Summary of Revisions

### September 8 and October 11, 2021 Executive Committee revisions:

#### Interpretation

- corrected lettering to be consecutive (a-w)

#### Constitution

- Article 3 Vision & Purpose; following CRA communication added:
  - *3.3 Mennonite Church Alberta will be carried on without purpose of gain for its members, and any profits or other gains to Mennonite Church Alberta shall be used in promoting its purposes.*

#### Bylaws

- Article 7 Administrative Bodies
  - 7.11.6.6 – changed “semi-annually” to “on a biennial basis”
- Article 10 Financial & Corporate
  - 10.4 – corrected formatting resulted in change in numbering; no wording changes
  - 10.7, 10.8 – changed “semi-annually” to “on a biennial basis”
- Article 13 Dissolution
  - 13.1 changed to include reference to Income Tax Act, as per CRA communication  
*In the event that MCA is dissolved or liquidated, and if there is any property remaining after all debts have been paid and obligations have been discharged, such surplus property shall be distributed to ~~registered Canadian charities~~ qualified donees, as described in subsection 149.1 (1) of the Income Tax Act, that are:*
    - 13.1.1 devoted to Christian evangelism, charitable, or educational purposes; and*
    - 13.1.2 have Mennonite programs and affiliation.*

### November 13, 2021 General Council revisions:

#### Interpretation

- added (q) Moderator means chair of Mennonite Church Alberta
- subsequent lettering changes

#### Bylaws

- Article 2 Delegate Meetings
  - 2.10 changed “chair” to “Moderator”
  - 2.12 changed “chair” to “Moderator”
- Article 7 Administrative Bodies
  - 7.28.1 – added “and is the chair of MCA”

The MCA Executive Committee recommends that these activities be accepted by the delegate body with the following motion:

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.

Submitted by  
Brenda Tiessen-Wiens, MCA Moderator





## Looking back on 2021

Despite another difficult year, I am grateful for continued efforts to resource our nationwide church and to connect us to our Indigenous neighbours and international partners:

- Congregations across the country again shared [weekly online worship services](#) with our nationwide community of faith from June until September.
- The Sustainability Leadership Group (SLG), together with students from The King's University in Edmonton, produced "[God's Green Church](#)," a resource to help our congregations become more sustainable communities.
- We have engaged with MC USA to update our ministerial misconduct policy (release forthcoming in Jan. 2022).



Here are highlights from our programs:

## CommonWord

Bookstore and Resource Centre

CommonWord is your bookstore and resource centre, a nationwide ministry of Mennonite Church Canada. We help connect you with Anabaptist and related materials – to buy, borrow or access online at [commonword.ca](http://commonword.ca) – that inspire, provoke, equip and engage. Don't let the pandemic keep you from reading or accessing new resources. Let CommonWord encourage your faith conversations:

- Peruse our carefully selected reading lists.
- Circulate bulk loan orders among your church members.
- Pick up our discounted Common Read titles.
- Attend our book launches (virtual and in-person).
- Engage children with our CommonWord Kids collection.

### Indigenous-Settler Relations

- In June, more than one hundred people joined Mennonite Church Canada's [Be it Resolved Challenge](#), a group that committed itself to: 1) remembering the commitments Mennonites have made to Indigenous justice over the past 50 years and 2) making a personal pledge to live out specific "calls to action."
- For decades Indigenous activists and their allies (Mennonite Church Canada joined the effort in 2016) have advocated for UNDRIP to be recognized in Canadian law. On



June 21, 2021 - Indigenous Peoples Day - [Bill C-15](#), *An Act Respecting the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, achieved Royal Assent. Implementation will take time, but C-15 should bring us closer to the

Declaration's vision of "harmonious and cooperative relations" rooted in justice and respect.

- Mennonite Church Canada, in partnership with regional church ISR working groups and [Christian Peacemaker Teams](#), supported Indigenous land and water defenders. We brought weekly meals and supplies, wrote [solidarity statements](#) and sent teams [out to the land](#), to be with, learn from and support Indigenous neighbours.



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

### International Witness

- In July, IW hosted [an online conversation](#) with the Colombian Mennonite Church (IMCOL) to share our churches' responses to the discovery of unmarked graves at former Indian residential school sites in Canada and to ongoing violence against civilians in Colombia.



George and Tobia Veith.

- Witness workers George and Tobia Veith returned to Canada in the fall, [ending 30 years of service](#) in the greater China area. They spoke in churches from October (2021) to January (2022) sharing how they witnessed God at work.
- Witness worker Bock Ki Kim continued to train facilitators in restorative justice circle training at the Chuncheon Community Peace Center in South Korea. They are in high demand at local schools, with the police service and community groups.
- Meserete Kristos Seminary in Ethiopia has invited [Werner and Joanne De Jong \(MCA\)](#) to teach and support faculty development. After a lengthy delay due to visa issues, the De Jongs left for Ethiopia in mid-January (2022).



Werner and Joanne De Jong.

You can find our full annual report for 2021 at [CommonWord](#).

Blessings in 2022,

Doug Klassen  
Executive Minister





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

## Greetings from MCEC!

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

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

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



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



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



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

## MCEC Community of Congregations

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

## Supporting Pastors & Congregational Leaders

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

## Supporting Congregations

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

## Congregational Transitions

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

## Church Plants

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

## Mennonite Church Manitoba 2021: Year in Review



**Mennonite Church Manitoba** ([www.mennochurch.mb.ca](http://www.mennochurch.mb.ca)) is a community of 38 member congregations with almost 7,000 individual members. We gather throughout the province of Manitoba in the territories of Treaties 1, 2, 3, and 5, the homelands of diverse Indigenous peoples. We covenant together to follow Jesus and live out the call of Christ within an Anabaptist perspective. We also covenant together with our partner regional churches of MC British Columbia, MC Alberta, MC Saskatchewan, and MC Eastern Canada as Mennonite Church Canada ([www.mennonitechurch.ca](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca)), to be a nationwide church that extends God's love to our neighbours locally, nationally, and globally.

### Another COVID Year

2021 will be remembered as "2020 2.0." The COVID-19 pandemic has continued to ravage the globe, and this has had significant impact on our congregations and pastors as well as our collective ministry as MCM. Pastors are exhausted, programs are scaled back, budgets are tight, and congregations are left wondering who is still part of their fellowship and what their church will look like on the other side of the pandemic. The same realities are true for us as a regional church. Nevertheless, God has been at work among us! Read on for good news of the Spirit's movement within MCM.

### Camps with Meaning

Our Camps with Meaning ([www.campswithmeaning.org](http://www.campswithmeaning.org)) leaders and staff have done a tremendous job navigating the public health orders to provide a scaled-back summer camp program alongside retreat and rental opportunities. In 2021 we offered seven pop-up camps (4 for youth and 3 for adults with disabilities) at our campsites and churches, and five day camps (1 week at Koinonia, 4 at Assiniboia). We had close to 250 total campers served by 51 total staff. Summer campers played, ate, sang, and learned together around the theme, "Heroes of the Faith."

### Support for Pastors and Congregations

MCM staff have visited and walked alongside pastors and congregations in various ways, in person when possible, via phone or Zoom when necessary. Pastor cluster groups have continued to meet, complementing the individual support provided by staff. Staff have worked with church councils and search committees to find interim or long term pastors. Several pastors completed a credentialing process with MCM during 2021, and staff were delighted to participate in installation and ordination services virtually or in person. MCM staff also provide support for congregations in faith formation, worship, congregational care, and local mission, as well as misconduct response, conflict mediation, and resourcing for church councils.

### Re-Focused Programs

The range of programs we offer as MCM was reviewed in 2021, leading to a shift in our programs and staffing. Our four primary program areas are now Leadership Ministries (overseen by Rick Neufeld), Congregational Ministries (Kathy Giesbrecht), Mission Ministries, and Camps with Meaning. Dorothy Fontaine is shifting from Director of Mission to Director of Camps with Meaning as of January 1, 2022, and we will be hiring a Director of Mission Engagement to oversee our Mission Ministries as

well as to focus on church engagement. In addition, a new Congregational Health Committee has been formed to advise and support Kathy Giesbrecht in the area of Congregational Ministries, looking at ways to increase the health and vitality of our congregations.

## **New Working Groups**

Two new MCM working groups are being added to our MCM Palestine-Israel Network and Woven (Mennonite Women Together). The Manitoba Mennonite Coalition for Indigenous Solidarity (MMCIS) will help our congregations to collaborate regionally for learning and action in solidarity with our Indigenous neighbours, and the MCM Climate Action Working Group (MCM CAWG) will do the same for our congregations related to our response to climate change.

## **Our Nationwide Ministry**

Just as our ministry as congregations extends beyond our communities as Mennonite Church Manitoba, so our ministry as a regional church extends beyond our province as Mennonite Church Canada. Together with our other regional churches, we provide resourcing for MC Canada congregations and others through our CommonWord resource centre and website ([www.commonword.ca](http://www.commonword.ca)). We have worked together in Indigenous-Settler Relations toward living out our commitments to truth and reconciliation. We work with International Witness partners around the world in over a dozen different countries to help bring Jesus' ministry of reconciliation to life in these contexts. We are also committed to significant action nationwide in response to the climate crisis.

## **Moving Forward**

We have two staff exits expected for 2022. Rick Neufeld will be retiring as Director of Leadership Ministries at the end of March, and David Hogue will be likewise be leaving as Site Manager at Camp Assiniboia at the end of April. We are grateful for their ministry among us and wish them well.

We are anticipating our MCM Gathering on March 5. Given the uncertainties in Manitoba related to COVID, this will once again be via Zoom. We are also anticipating our MC Canada Gathering in Edmonton from July 29 to August 1. We encourage all who are able to join us for these events.

2022 looks to be another year of challenge and change, yet with the Spirit of God working in us, among us, and through us in the world. At this point it looks to be "2020 3.0," another year of pandemic. This will continue to create challenges for us as congregations and pastors, and as a regional church. We will face those challenges as we have so far: with an abiding faith in God, with courageous hope for God's goodness to be shown among us, and with a deepening love for one another and for all, especially the most vulnerable of our world.

Michael Pahl  
Executive Minister, Mennonite Church Manitoba



Mennonite Church Saskatchewan (MC Sask) is a community of 23 congregations who have covenanted together to be Christ Centred & Sent. We support each other in ministry, do things together which we cannot do alone, are church together throughout the province, and connect to the larger Mennonite Church body through Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite World Conference.

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

### Congregational Transitions

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

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

### The Work of the Church

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

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

Wishing you Christ's peace and hope,

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



*Youth fun at Shekinah!*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Stories and contributions from Alberta add to the richness of *CM* content. In 2021, correspondent **Joanne De Jong** published 30 print and web-exclusive stories until her departure in November. Ruth Bergen-Braun and others sent photos that graced the front or back cover. Tim Wiebe-Neufeld wrote the feature article on March 29. Caleb Kowalko, Werner De Jong, Tim Wiebe-Neufeld and Brenda Tiessen-Wiens contributed to the From Our Leaders column. Camp Valaqua and Menno Simons Christian School sent updates regularly. Numerous individuals sent in letters to the editor or wrote other articles or blogs.



**Joanne  
De Jong**

Through the Every Home Plan, people from Mennonite Church Canada congregations subscribe to the magazine at half the cost of a regular subscription. Fees are paid collectively through the church. Talk to your administrator for details. If you already have a print subscription and would like to add digital delivery, email Graham Aberdein at [office@canadianmennonite.org](mailto:office@canadianmennonite.org).

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

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

Hebrews 10: 24-25

### Canadian Mennonite in 2021

- 26 issues
- 71 stories and photos from Alberta
- 1005 articles about the church in Canada and beyond
- 5,500 followers on social media
- 9,500 subscribers
- 200,000 website visitors



### Ways to connect

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

### Like to take photos?

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

### Submissions

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

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

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

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

**Church administrators** send milestone announcements (births, baptisms, marriages and deaths) to share with the wider church family. Send to: [milestones@canadianmennonite.org](mailto: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 women and men for lives of service, leadership, and reconciliation in church and society.

## 2021-22 Enrolment

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

**673** Total students  
**616** Undergraduate  
**56** Graduate

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

**856 Total CMU FTE**

## CMU Report to the Community

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



## Why CMU?

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

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

– Tania Mulki



## Greetings to Mennonite Church Alberta from Canadian Mennonite University

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





## **2021 Annual Report**

**Prepared for the churches of  
MC SK & MCA**



Navigating the COVID-19 pandemic continued to be a challenge for schools throughout 2021. In spite of this we were able to continue with much of our regular programming, including our annual service week (ALSO Week) in May. We were excited that cases dropped and gathering sizes expanded in late June as it meant we were able to celebrate the successful completion of our 2020/2021 school year with an in-person graduation. This was a refreshing change as graduation in 2020 was online.

In September we launched the 2021/2022 school year and got off to a great start. We began the year with 89 students and a positive spirit. I am thankful for all the work that was done in previous months, and over the summer, by so many people to put us in this favorable position as we began the school year with another increase in enrollment. We hope to continue this trend moving forward.

In late October we hosted our annual corporation meeting via Zoom and were happy to report a balanced budget from the previous year and propose another balanced budget for the current year. Thank you to all our supporters who continue to donate and pray for us as we pursue our mission as a church school.

Currently the omicron variant is causing some concern, but we have been able to begin our 2021/2022 school year with four months of relative normalcy in terms of athletics, arts and academic program. Our students have been able to meet in the chapel, tour with the choir, and gather in the dorm for games and activities. These are the types of activities that help students grow and thrive, and we are thankful that they have resumed again.

We feel blessed and ask for your continued prayers and support as we seek to keep our students and staff safe while we fulfill our mission.

Ryan Wood  
Principal, RJC High School  
December 2021

## Resources for faith formation and leadership development

### *Academic programs*

AMBS serves the church as a learning community with an Anabaptist vision, educating followers of Jesus Christ to be leaders for God's reconciling mission in the world. Our programs integrate academics, spiritual formation and practice. Join us — whether in person or at a distance — and deepen your understanding of Scripture, faith and Anabaptist theology!

- **Study at a distance**
  - **Master of Divinity Connect** (online and hybrid courses)
  - **Master of Arts: Theology and Global Anabaptism** (fully or partially online)
  - **Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies** (fully or partially online; customizable)
- **Study on campus**
  - **Master of Divinity Campus**
  - **Master of Arts in Christian Formation**
  - **Master of Arts: Theology and Peace Studies**
  - **Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies**  
[ambs.ca/degrees-and-programs](https://ambs.ca/degrees-and-programs)
- **Yes, you *can* afford seminary!** We offer generous need-based financial aid, matching grants and scholarships for both full- and part-time students. See benefits for Canadians: [ambs.ca/ambs-financial-aid-for-canadians](https://ambs.ca/ambs-financial-aid-for-canadians)
- **Want to explore seminary study?** Take an online, campus or blended class, even if you're not yet admitted to AMBS, and your first three credit hours are 50% off! Check out our offerings: [ambs.ca/upcoming-courses](https://ambs.ca/upcoming-courses)
- **Experience AMBS:** Talk with students, faculty and staff and learn what AMBS has to offer! [ambs.ca/visit](https://ambs.ca/visit)

### *Center for Faith Formation and Culture*

- **!Explore: A Theological Program for High School Youth:** Students in grades 10–12 can explore ministry and theology, grow in spiritual practices and listen for God's call through a summer congregational internship and a Group Experience (at MWC in 2022!). Participants receive a \$1,000 stipend. Tap a shoulder! [ambs.ca/explore](https://ambs.ca/explore)

### **Regional church connections**

#### **Graduate Certificate student from MC Alberta:**

Adela Wedler (First – Edmonton)

#### **Board member from MC Alberta:**

Bruce Baergen (First – Edmonton)

#### **AMBS statistics (2021–22)**

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

### *Lifelong learning*

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

- **Online short courses:** Join the forum discussions in these six-week online courses. Some courses include optional weekly video conversations with professors in real time. No grades, no papers!
  - Exploring Peace and Justice in the Bible
  - Exploring Anabaptist History and Theology
  - Understanding Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture: What's Different and Why?
  - Transforming Congregational Conflict and Communication
  - The Bible and Christian Nationalism: Faithful Leadership in a World of Political Idolatry  
[ambs.ca/online-short-courses](https://ambs.ca/online-short-courses)
- **Pastors & Leaders 2023:** Feb. 13–16  
[ambs.ca/pastors-and-leaders](https://ambs.ca/pastors-and-leaders)
- **Journey: A Missional Leadership Development Program:** This two-and-a-half-year nondegree program offers mentor-mentee partnerships, distance-learning opportunities and community support. [ambs.ca/journey](https://ambs.ca/journey)
- **Spiritual Direction Seminars:** Cultivate your ministry of spiritual direction. [ambs.ca/seminars](https://ambs.ca/seminars)
- **Invite AMBS!** Faculty are available to speak on trauma-informed caregiving, undoing racism, intercultural competence, improvisational leadership, and more. Ask about virtual visits!  
[ambs.ca/invite](https://ambs.ca/invite)

# Mennonite Disaster Service Canada **REPORT**

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

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

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

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

Although 2021 was a hard year for us—the pandemic curtailed most of our responses in this country and prevented Canadians from going to the U.S. to volunteer—it couldn't stop us from doing what we could to help people impacted by disasters. Despite the pandemic, and the restrictions it imposed, we still responded to people in need.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Diane and Reginald Rice

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

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

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

—Ross Penner, Director of Canadian Operations



**Mennonite  
Disaster  
Service**

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

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

2021 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](https://mennonitemen.org).

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



## 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 diversity.

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

A recent grant given to Landisville Mennonite Church in Pennsylvania contributed to the planting

of over 600 trees on 3.65 acres as the land is turned from farmland back to forest and meadow as part of the congregation's efforts to improve water quality, expand pollinator and wildlife habitat, and address climate change.

In 2021 we are funding the planting of 41,000 trees in Guatemala and Honduras to restore land in local watersheds and assist farmers incorporate trees into crop and animal farming systems.

These projects improve local communities, assist vulnerable populations, support biodiversity and will help mitigate the increasingly negative effects of global warming.

Learn more and contribute to this program at [mennonitemen.org/jointrees](https://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 current project is raising \$40,000 for the Hmong Mennonite Church in Westminster, Colorado. Since 2015, members of Hmong Mennonite Church have been planning and searching for a place of their own to accommodate their growing ministry. Once funded, the grant will assist this congregation in finding space of their own to carry out their growing ministry.

Help us accomplish this fair balance. We can extend grants only as donors give to this program. For more details about this program, visit [mennonitemen.org/joinhands](https://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](https://mennonitemen.org/joinmen).

In addition to retreats, a study guide and audio book are now available for *Peaceful at Heart: Anabaptist Reflections on Healthy Masculinity*. A video series based on this book will soon be released. This video series featuring interviews with each of the 19 contributors can be viewed by groups who are reading and discussing the book together. We are also anticipating the release of *Strong, Loving, and Wise: Joining Conversations for Men*. This book is a guide for men covering topics such as male formation, personal challenges, sexual wholeness, conflict tools, and life roles, just to name a few.



To our friends at Mennonite Church Alberta,

Thank you for your interest and participation in the work of MCC Alberta. Many of your members are long-time volunteers, donors and supporters, and thanks to that we are able to continue the work that we do locally and globally. We are thankful to serve with you.

As you can imagine, the pandemic continued to affect our work in 2021, as it does to this day. We couldn't have fundraising events as before, but individuals and churches in MCA continued to participate and support the ministries of MCC in over 45 countries. No matter the circumstances, the church, as the body of Christ, finds ways to support its community and the needs of people all around us.

In 2020-21, we were able to connect with churches in Alberta over 300 times, whether by our weekly church announcements, personal visits and or phone and video calls. Our operations this year included:

- Support for the Refugee Sponsorship program continues, especially in the wake of conflict in east Africa and Afghanistan.
- Services for Newcomers in Taber helps Low German Mennonites from Mexico find their way in Canada.
- Circles of Support and Accountability provides community support and accountability for former offenders reintegrating into society.
- GO!100 fundraisers ran, biked, skipped, horse-carriaged and more, raising \$243,000.
- Supporters sponsored 317 acres for the Grow Hope campaign, and despite intense weather challenges, farmers remained dedicated. Revenues from sponsored acres, totalling \$95,300, were then matched up to 4 to 1 by the Canadian government through Canadian Foodgrains Bank.
- Material Resources shipped 1925 comforters, 1149 School kits, 1116 Hygiene kits and 854 Relief kits.
- Thrift shops in Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge and Taber together saw a 30% year over year increase in sales despite pandemic-related challenges.

We are so grateful for Mennonite Church Alberta, your ministries, and your partnership with MCC. Your service and prayers are needed and treasured. May God bless you as you follow the way of Christ.

Blessings,

Ernie Engbrecht  
Chair, MCC Alberta