

Where do we go from here?

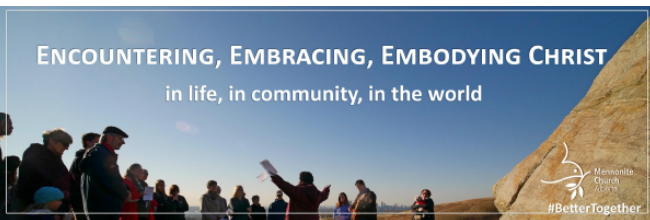
For three years we have focused on opening ourselves to encounter, embrace, and embody Christ in our lives, in our communities, in the world. We have seen God at work and trust we have helped others to see Christ living in and through us.

We have asked questions and prayed for answers. We continue to think about what we have learned and experienced, and to grow from it. We look forward with joy to what is ahead.

We pray that the deep roots grown through E3 will continue to provide life and stability to each of us and to MCA congregations. We anticipate seeing how we will be used in God's Kingdom work.

Let's keep those banners up in our churches to remind us of what we have accomplished together and to challenge us to be open to continue to encounter, embrace, and embody Christ wherever we are called.

ENCOUNTERING, EMBRACING, EMBODYING CHRIST
in life, in community, in the world



Let's move forward...
Knowing that God calls us beloved,
Calls us into relationship,
Calls us to embody love and hope to all.

Hugo

I love the overall theme with the three E's. The many visuals including the hands reaching upward through the green leaves of a tree and bursting into the globe speak powerfully of an integrated faith that reflects Christian/Anabaptist values.

More quotes:



<https://mcab.ca/aftere3>

E3 reminds us that we do not pray alone. We may pray in solitude or silence but never in isolation from one another in the Spirit of Christ.

Louisa



I need this reminder that it's God's church, living within God's time.

Brenda

E3 was a reminder to focus on Christ: To open my eyes and my heart to encounter him, in different kinds of prayer, but also in the faces, actions, and beauty around me

Debbie

Moving forward in faith



Encountering,
Embracing,
Embodying Christ
in the world

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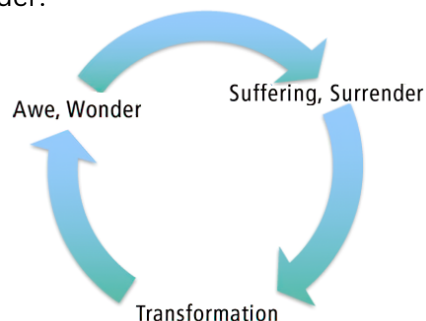
2018 to 2019

Vision 20/20

In 2018 we, as the MCA faith family, entered into a time of listening - to each other and for God's leading.

In our congregations and at MCA gatherings we prayed, opened ourselves to God's leading, and shared where we heard God calling us.

We were invited to see ourselves within the **Grand Narrative Spiral** of spiritual renewal, common throughout history. We learned our questions could help transform us to a new place of awe and wonder.



In 2019 we heard that we were called::



TO RELEASE:

- Absence of Prayer
- Preconceptions & Focus on trappings
- Clan mentality
- Past conflicts
- Feeling Small

TO EMBRACE:

- Prayer
- Core commitments & deep longings
- Deep Community
- Moral Characteristics
- Ministering to others



2020 to 2023

E3=MCA

From the prayer and discernment of the Vision 20/20 process, E3 was born.



Year 1: In Life

- We opened ourselves to encounter God in new ways through spiritual disciplines.
- We were encouraged to embrace that we are lovable and deeply loved, and that God lives within each of us.
- We were called to embody Christ as we prioritized prayer and stepped out with the courage of God's beloved.
- This inward focus resonated as we entered a time of physical distancing due to COVID.

Year 2: In Community

- We were encouraged to encounter God within our community, even while challenged to remain safely distanced.
- We embraced our identity as God's family, called to stay connected even when we could not gather - enjoying creative ways to safely stay in touch and express God's love.
- We endeavored to embody Christ through continued commitment to support each other and our various missions.

Year 3: In the World

- We lifted our gaze to encounter God in the world - in new ways of worship, in all people everywhere, in nature, and in the goodness and beauty all around us.
- We were called to embrace new understandings of who God is and who we are called to be.
- We felt called to embody Christ as individuals and a church, to those we meet and others around the world.

2023 & beyond

Vision 20/20 led to E3. Where is E3 leading us? Having completed the 3 year focus on **Encountering, Embracing, and Embodying Christ in Life, in Community, in the World**, we ask, What is next?

As followers of Christ, we will never finish opening ourselves to God's presence and leading. We will never fully internalize the depth of God's love for us. We can never truly embody all that Christ is.

Yet again and again God calls us to a transformation that only God can bring. Our "E3 journey" will continue as God works in us and through us.

For 2023 we will be focussing on who we are as MCA and as God's people. We want to get to know each other better and support each other as joint members of God's family. As we come out of the isolation of COVID restrictions and the effects of the different narratives of that time, we look in hope and trust to God.

Let us pray for ourselves and each other as we look to

- **Support Congregations**
- **Nurture Connections**
- **Celebrate Faith in Action**

May the journey ahead draw us closer together as siblings in Christ and beloved children of God.

E3 Resources



<https://mcab.ca/e3-mca>

