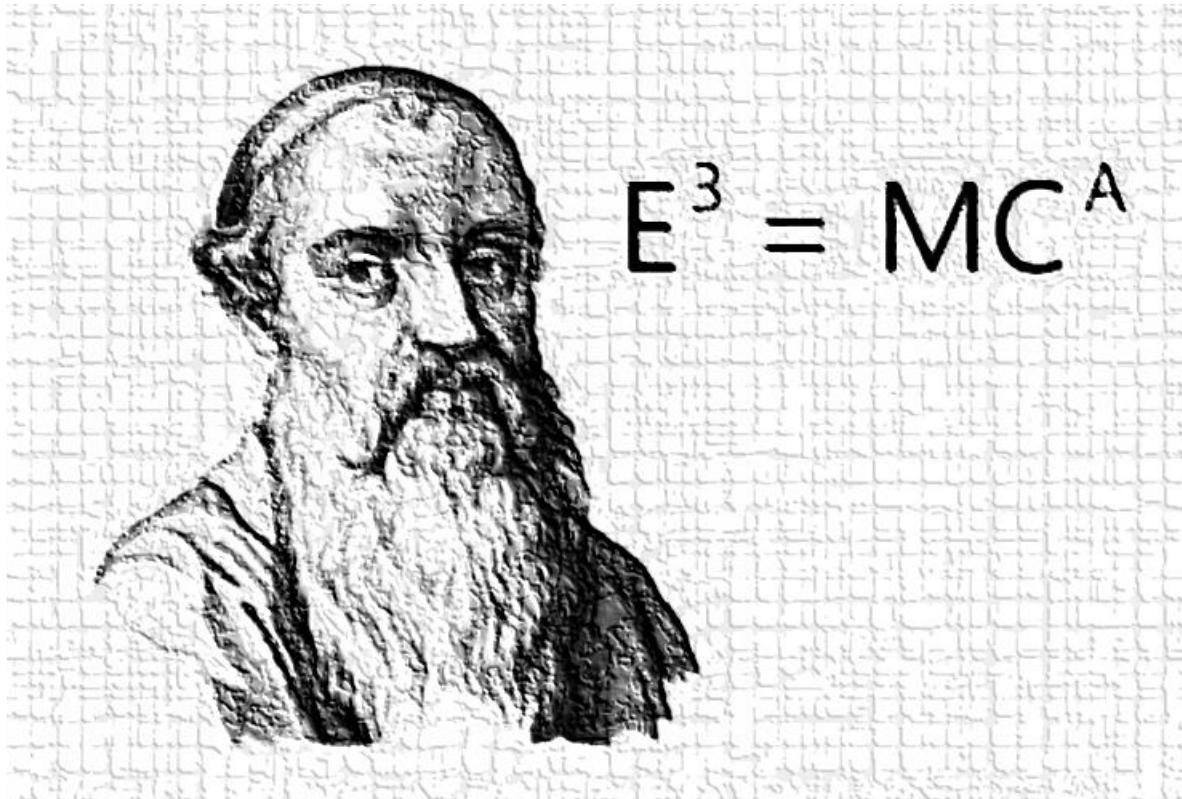


Assembly 2020

Report Book



Encountering, Embracing, Embodying Christ

In life, in community, in the world



mcab.ca



MCA Staff

Tim Wiebe-Neufeld	Executive Minister
Donna Entz	Director, North Edmonton Ministry
Jeff Schellenberg	Manager, Camp Valaqua
Jon Olfert	Director, Camp Valaqua
Tany Warkentin	Treasurer
June Miller	Communications Coordinator

MCA Executive Council

Brenda Tiessen-Wiens	Moderator
Paul Neufeldt	Vice Moderator
Wayne Janz	Finance
Elizabeth Wall	Secretary
Tim Wiebe-Neufeld	Executive Minister

Joint Council Representatives

Brenda Tiessen-Wiens	Moderator
Margaret Kruger-Harder	Member-at-large

General Council 2019

(in addition to Executive Council)

Ruth Friesen	Nomination Chair
Michael Ediger	Personnel Chair
Kevin Stoesz	Camp Valaqua Chair
Karen Janz	Program & Festival Chair
Kate Janzen	Community Building Chair
Vince Friesen	Mission & Service
Werner DeJong	Congregational Leadership



Thank you to MMI Alberta for sponsoring our breaks.

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Robert's Rules of Order

1. After the motion has been moved and seconded, the mover has the first privilege of speaking, followed by the seconder.
2. The chairman will then ask if anyone wishes to speak to the motion. It is preferable that those speaking in opposition to the motion shall alternate with those speaking for the motion.
3. If no one wishes to speak against the motion, the chairman will then call for a vote.
4. If someone wishes to speak against the motion, then regular parliamentary procedures will be followed.
5. The mover of a motion has the privilege of closing the debate, but not the seconder.
6. The order of presentation of the resolutions will be decided by the Executive. However, delegates may refer to the chairman on points of privilege or information.
7. Each speaker to a resolution will be limited to two (2) minutes.
8. It is the privilege of any delegate to move the previous question if he or she considers that the discussion has been prolonged; however, a delegate will not be allowed to move the "previous question" while speaking to a resolution, thus in effect winding up the debate.
9. A delegate may only speak once to a resolution, other than the mover who may close the debate.
10. Officials will be given time to make necessary explanations.
11. Visitors shall have the privilege of the floor but no voting privileges.

Friday

- 6:30 pm **Registration**
- 7:30 pm **Gathering Worship** (Sanctuary)
 - Official Opening of Sessions
 - Presentation of Nominees
 - Introduction to First Mennonite, Edmonton
 - Introducing E3 Theme
 - How do we nurture our relationship with God – Caleb Kowalko***
 - Recognition of Baptisms & Deaths**

Saturday

- 8:30 am **Registration**
- 8:45 am **Morning Assembly** (Sanctuary)
 - Year in Review
 - Presentation of Budget*
 - Sharing from MCEC – David Martin*
 - Update on International Witness – Jeanette Hansen*
- 10:00 am **Break sponsored by MMI, Alberta** (Multipurpose room)
- 10:15 am **Morning Worship** (Sanctuary)
 - How do we reclaim spiritual disciplines and know that we are deeply beloved – Deb Kirkpatrick*
- 11:00 am **Breakout Sessions** (Basement SS rooms)
- 12:00 pm **Lunch** (Multipurpose room)
- 1:00 pm **Afternoon Worship**
 - How do we open ourselves to be transformed - TBA*
 - Presentation from CMU
 - Presentation from RJC
 - MC Canada Update
- 2:10 pm **Break sponsored by MMI** (Multipurpose room)
- 2:25 pm **Afternoon Assembly** (Multipurpose room)
 - Canadian Mennonite Discussion
(move to Sanctuary)
 - Presentation & Approval of Budget
 - Approval of Nominations
- 3:15 pm **Closing**
 - Commissioning of Volunteers
 - Closing of session

Minutes 2019 Sessions

MCA Annual Delegate Sessions

****Minutes****

March 15-16, 2019

Bergthal Mennonite Church

Friday, March 15

Gathering Worship
Official Opening of Sessions

Presentation of Nominees

Executive: Vice Moderator - Paul Neufeldt (2nd term); Secretary - Elizabeth Wall (2nd term)
Finance: Jim Moyer (3rd term)
Congregational Leadership: Werner De Jong (1st term); Anna-Lisa Salo (1st term); Ryan Dueck (1st term)
Community Building: Coreen Froese (2nd term); Nominee needed.
Missions & Service: Vincent Friesen (2nd term); Beth Moyer (2nd term)
Camp Valaqua: Kevin Stoesz (2nd term); Deanna Willms (1st term); Nominee needed.
Program/Festival: Nominee needed.
Nominations: Ruth Friesen (3rd term)
Canadian Mennonite Representative: Art Koop (1st term)

Church Sharing and Prayer - Bergthal / Calgary Chin - a warm welcome from Bergthal
Wilderness Spirituality with Betty Pries
Service of Grieving, Deaths, and Baptisms - Tim Wiebe-Neufeld and Heather Klassen

Saturday, March 16

Opening and Business Session 1 - Introduction of guests
Parliamentarian: Ernie Engbrecht; Resolutions: Paul Neufeldt.
Year in Review: Reflecting on 2018 (power point)
Betty Pries: Harvesting our Season of Prayer: Where we have been & Where we are going

Break sponsored by MMI

Gathering Worship
Church Sharing & Prayer: Bethel International Edmonton Church Oromo Congregation / Calgary First
Sharing: MC Manitoba (Ken Warkentin, Executive Minister)
Betty Pries: Re-Reading our time: "Harvesting" our reflections following the season of prayer

Lunch

Worship
Presentations from CMU (Terry Schellenberg) and RJC (David Epp)

MC Canada Update - Henry Paetkau (Interim Director of Mennonite Church Canada, MC Canada International Witness) and Tim Wiebe-Neufeld
Prayer for Doug Klassen as Director of Mennonite Church Canada
Joint Council (Brenda Tiessen-Wiens)
Resolutions

- 1. Be it resolved that MCA approve the minutes from 2018 AGM as presented in the report book. Paul Neufeldt (Lethbridge)/Bernie Feddema (Calgary First). Carried.**

Edmonton Vietnamese Mennonite Church has indicated their intention to withdraw from membership in Mennonite Church Alberta and Mennonite Church Canada. Prayer.

Presentation from Camp Valaqua (John Olfert)
Presentation of 2018 Financial Statements
Ended with about \$6000 surplus. Correction: Camp Valaqua Operating should be \$405,631.
Approval of 2019 Budget
Proposing deficit of about \$11,000. Correction: Camp Valaqua Operating should be \$379,400.

- 2. Be it resolved that MCA approve the 2018 audited financial statements as distributed. Paul Bergen (Edmonton First)/Wayne Janz (Calgary First). Carried.**

- 3. Be it resolved that MCA appoint Retzlaff and Wong as auditors for 2019. Doris Viergutz (Bergthal)/Robert Proudfoot (Edmonton First). Carried.**

- 4. Be it resolved that MCA approve the 2019 budget as presented in the report book with the correction noted for Camp expenses. Bernie Feddema (Calgary First)/Jim Griffeth (Calgary First). Carried.**

- 5. Be it resolved that MCA approve the Nominations as slated. Robert Proudfoot (Edmonton First)/Ernie Engbrecht (Lethbridge). Carried.**

Commissioning of Volunteers.
Betty Pries: Living the stance that opens us to God's ongoing presence and leading

Thanks.
Prayer.

Closing of Annual Delegate Sessions.

###

Finance

by Wayne Janz

2019 Financial Results

We had planned for an \$11,300 deficit for 2019, but ended up doubling that amount. By December 31, 2019, we had spent \$23,000 more than we had received.

Contributions from our local churches was on target, and operating expenses, not including camp, were less than budgeted. Camp revenues exceeded expectations as the summer programs had the highest number of registrants in over ten years. However, these revenues were offset equally by the higher cost of providing for more campers. What contributed most to our larger than expected deficit was a shortfall in donations from individuals.

We did experience positive financial excitement in the last quarter of the year. Through the fundraising efforts of our Camp Committee and generous donations from individuals, we were able to pay off our loan for the camp bathroom renovation project. The renovation project is now completely behind us, and we look forward to hosting happy campers for many more years as they flush their cares away!

One of the goals we set at the beginning of the year was to reduce the number of restricted funds we kept on the books. Some had been around for many years with no activity. We did completely retire the Youth Ministry Worker Fund. The Church Planting Fund will be exhausted after a final disbursement in January 2020 to support the South Sudanese Church. The Youth Leadership Team Fund was partially used to support youth attendance at the Shake conference. Our youth have decided they would like the remaining funds used to purchase a new ping pong table for Camp Valaqua early in 2020. A small disbursement was made from the Leadership Memorial Fund, leaving a balance of \$2,300. The remaining funds will be used to support leadership initiatives in the coming year.

Our 2019 financial results are summarized in the statements below. They start with short dashboards to provide a quick overview. Those looking for more detail can continue past the dashboards to the more detailed statement. These statements are not yet audited and do not reflect the year end adjustments recommended through the audit. Audited statements will be available on request at the Annual Assembly.

We are always thankful for the financial support we receive from our congregations, individuals, and our federal and provincial governments. Together, they help us continue to run our ongoing programs.

2020 Budget

We are facing income challenges for 2020. Forecasted contributions from our local congregations is \$30,000 less than it was in 2019. Individual donations are harder to predict, but are trending downwards. In addition, the provincial government has ended the STEP program, which provided about \$10,000 of funding for employing camp counsellors.

The MCA Finance Committee, working with the General Council, wrestled with developing a balanced budget. With lower income expectations, where could costs be reduced? In the end, we are coming to delegates with proposed deficit budget of \$34,000.

Our balance sheet is strong, with over \$150,000 available in cash and investments. We can absorb another deficit budget. However, we need to look further forward to consider our financial situation in 2021, 2022, and beyond. This year we are including projections out two years past our current budget year. We ask our constituents to think about what programs and supports to other Mennonite organizations are most important to the vision and mission of MCA. Your feedback will help us set priorities for the future.

Other highlights of our MCA 2020 proposed budget are:

1. Set individual donations to \$12,000 over 2019 actual receipts with General Council developing a plan on how to reach that goal
2. Reduce relational funding for International Witness by \$5,000 to \$20,000
3. Defer filling the part time church engagement role for another year
4. Increase staff salaries as per national church guidelines
5. Reduce contributions to MC Canada by \$7,000 to \$80,000
6. Reduce support of Canadian Mennonite University by \$5,000 to \$20,000
7. Reduce support of Rosthern Junior College by \$5,000 to \$12,000
8. Add a \$10,000 expense to hire an interim camp director to cover Jon Olfert's sabbatical

Details of the proposed 2020 MCA budget are below, along with forecasts for 2021 and 2022. Amortization and depreciation costs are not included.

MCA Overall Budget Dashboard

	2019 Actual	2019 Budget	2020 Budget	2021 Forecast	2022 Forecast
Church Contributions	\$354,531	\$350,600	\$319,400	\$314,400	\$314,400
Individual Contributions	58,321	69,000	69,500	59,200	57,000
Witness Relational Funding	18,748	25,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Camp Income	305,630	285,100	290,600	294,100	299,100
Other Income	74,719	80,500	75,900	74,200	74,500
Total Income	811,948	810,200	775,400	761,900	765,000
Operating Expenses	434,230	442,100	420,700	470,900	482,400
Camp Expenses	400,768	379,400	388,700	393,258	397,158
Total Expenses	834,998	821,500	809,400	864,158	879,558
Net Income	-\$23,049	-\$11,300	-\$34,000	-\$102,258	-\$114,558

Camp Valaqua Dashboard

	2019 Actual	2019 Budget	2020 Budget	2021 Forecast	2022 Forecast
Registrations and Rentals	\$207,910	\$195,000	\$213,000	\$216,000	\$221,000
Donations	\$57,867	\$56,000	\$54,000	\$54,000	\$54,000
Other Income	\$39,853	\$34,100	\$23,600	\$24,100	\$24,100
	\$305,630	\$285,100	\$290,600	\$294,100	\$299,100
Expenses	400,768	379,400	388,700	393,258	397,158
Net Income	-\$95,139	-\$94,300	-\$98,100	-\$99,158	-\$98,058

North Edmonton Ministry Dashboard

	2019 Actual	2019 Budget	2020 Budget	2021 Forecast	2022 Forecast
Donations	\$37,427	\$48,200	\$48,200	\$48,200	\$48,200
Expenses	\$61,701	\$62,300	\$63,900	\$65,500	\$67,100
Net Income	-\$24,274	-\$14,100	-\$15,700	-\$17,300	-\$18,900

Mennonite Church Alberta
2019 Income Statement and Proposed 2020 Budget
Unaudited and without Amortization and Depreciation

	2019 Actual	2019 Budget	2020 Budget	2021 Forecast	2022 Forecast
Income					
Church Budgeted Contributions					
Calgary Chin	\$3,100	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Calgary - First	28,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Calgary - Foothills	120,000	120,000	100,000	95,000	95,000
Calgary - Trinity	23,000	23,000	12,500	12,500	12,500
Didsbury - Berghal	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
Edmonton - Bethel Int'l Church (Oromo)	300	500	300	300	300
Edmonton - Christian Life Community Church	600	600	600	600	600
Edmonton - First	96,500	96,500	96,500	96,500	96,500
Edmonton - Holyrood	10,950	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000
Edmonton - South Sudanese	1,000	500	500	500	500
Lethbridge	44,540	42,000	42,000	42,000	42,000
Pincher Creek - Springridge	19,541	18,000	17,000	17,000	17,000
Total Church Contributions	354,531	350,600	319,400	314,400	314,400
Individual Donations – General	53,481	65,000	65,000	55,000	53,000
Individual Donations – Relational	18,748	25,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Individual Donations – Rec'd by MC Canada	4,840	4,000	4,500	4,200	4,000
Meeting Costs Reimbursed from MC Canada	3,132	7,000	0	0	0
Annual Meeting (Assembly) Income	4,600	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Youth Leadership Team	3,415	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Interest Income	418	300	300	300	300
Other	4,771	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Missions & Services	38,627	48,200	48,200	48,200	48,200
Camp Valaqua	305,630	285,100	290,600	294,100	299,100
Community Building	17,624	12,000	15,400	13,700	14,000
Congregational Leadership	2,130	4,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Total Income	\$811,948	\$810,200	\$775,400	\$761,900	\$765,000
Expenses					
Ethiopia Mission	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,000
Mennonite World Conference	0	0	0	5,000	0
Church Engagement Services	0	0	0	41,000	43,000
Office Rental	3,925	4,500	3,600	3,800	4,000
Staff Professional Development	4,204	4,600	4,600	4,600	4,600
Vision 20/20 Professional Fees	6,556	0	0	0	0
Fundraising	1,289	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Executive Minister Services	96,561	98,700	101,500	103,700	106,000
Youth Leadership Team Program	1,405	3,000	3,200	3,000	3,000
Financial Services	17,464	18,400	17,600	18,000	18,500
Communications Services	27,800	27,500	28,600	29,700	30,800
Annual Meeting (Assembly) Costs	901	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Audit Fees	7,688	7,900	8,500	8,500	8,500
Office Supplies	8,547	6,000	9,000	9,500	9,500
Online Donation Service Fees	319	300	300	300	300
Liability Insurance	2,684	2,700	2,700	2,800	2,900
MC Canada - Relational Funding	18,748	25,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
MC Canada Ministries	87,000	87,000	80,000	80,000	80,000
MC Canada Meeting Costs	3,081	7,000	0	0	0
MC Canada - Assembly	5,600	4,800	0	0	6,000
Canadian Mennonite University Support	25,000	25,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
RJC Support	17,000	17,000	12,000	12,000	9,000
Conference Paper	8,815	9,000	9,000	9,200	9,400
Archives	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Camp Valaqua Operating	400,768	379,400	388,700	393,258	397,158
Community Building	20,464	19,100	20,500	20,800	21,100
Executive Committee	1,254	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,600
Finance Committee	211	200	250	250	275
Personnel Committee	202	200	250	250	275
Nominating Committee	0	200	250	250	275
Program Committee	0	200	250	250	275
Congregational Leadership	3,194	3,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Missions & Service Committee	63,316	64,800	68,600	68,000	69,600
Total Expenses	834,998	821,500	809,400	864,158	879,558
Net Income	-\$23,049	-\$11,300	-\$34,000	-\$102,258	-\$114,558

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by Ruth Friesen

The Nominating Committee works hard throughout the year responding as vacancies remain or arise after the Annual Assembly. This year was no different as we had three vacancies and we want to thank Christine Hansplant who agreed to serve on the Camp Valaqua committee. We were not able to fill the other two vacancies, one on Community Building and one on Program/Festival. This resulted in some conversation about the possibility of a link between Program/Festival and Community Building. These two committees have some similar roles, especially in providing ways for MCA congregations to connect in fellowship. With General Council's approval, and with the knowledge that there is an upcoming review of our constitution and by laws, these two committees have been asked to consider how they might work together.

For the past few years, we have not filled the third position on the Finance Committee. The committee together with our Treasurer seem to be able to carry out the work very well. With the recent re-structuring of our conferences, MCA is considering how to address the increasing need for fundraising and, until these discussions come to some conclusion, we are not filling this third position on Finance.

MCA positions are for two years, with a maximum of three terms. Our slate of nominees at present is as follows:

Executive (plus Executive Minister)

1	Moderator	Brenda Tiessen-Wiens (2nd term)	2022
2	Finance Chair	Wayne Janz (3rd term)	2022
	Serving with:		
3	Vice Moderator	Paul Neufeldt (2 nd term)	2021
4	Secretary	Elizabeth Wall (2 nd term)	2021

Personnel

1	Doug Wiebe	2022
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Finance Committee

1		Wayne Janz (3rd term)	2022
2	Serving with:	Jim Moyer (3 rd term)	2021
3		<i>vacant - will not fill</i>	

Congregational Leadership (plus Executive Minister)

Congregational Leadership (past Executive Ministers)			
1		Werner De Jong	2022
2	Serving with:	Anna Lisa Salo	2021
3		Ryan Dueck	2021

Community Building

1	Kate Janzen	2022
2	<i>vacant</i>	2022
3	Serving with: Coreen Froese (2 nd term)	2021

Missions & Service

1		Jake Froese (2nd term)	2022
2		Rick Tut (2nd term)	2022
3	Serving with:	Vincent Friesen (2 nd term)	2021
4		Beth Moyer (2 nd term)	2021

Camp Valaqua

1		Albert Goerzen (2nd term)	2022
2		Kathryn Friesen	2022
3	Serving with:	Kevin Stoesz (2 nd term)	2021
4		Deanna Willms	2021
5		Christine Hansplant	2021

Program/Festival

1		Karen Janz	2022
2		<i>vacant</i>	2022
3		<i>vacant</i>	2021

Nominations

1		<i>vacant</i>	2022
2	Serving with:	Ruth Friesen (3 rd term)	2021

Canadian Mennonite Representative

1		Art Koop	2021
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Joint Council Representative

1		Margaret Kruger-Harder	2021
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There are still some nominations required. We hope to have those positions filled by the time of our Assembly in First Mennonite Church Edmonton on March 20-21, 2020.

We would like to say thank you to Michael Ediger, Chad Miller and Marguerite Jack who are stepping down. Your hard work and commitment have been much appreciated.

Thank you also to those who have agreed to accept a new nomination or to continue to serve.

Respectfully submitted, Ruth Friesen & Marguerite Jack

1. Be it resolved that MCA approve the minutes from 2019 AGM as presented in the report book.
2. Be it resolved that MCA approve the 2019 audited financial statements as distributed.
3. Be it resolved that MCA appoint Retzlaff and Wong as auditors for 2020.
4. Be it resolved that MCA approve the 2020 budget as presented in the report book.
5. Be it resolved that MCA approve the Nominations as slated.

Delegate questions for discussion:

Renewing our Relationship with Canadian Mennonite

MC Canada and Regional Churches are looking at renewing our relationship with Canadian Mennonite (CM) as a part of MC Canada's overall Communications Strategy. Please take notes and discuss the following questions in small groups:

- 1) **Purpose** – A primary goal is to “build up the body” (Ephesians 4). In what ways do you see and appreciate CM's role in building connections and relationships in the nationwide community? What concerns do you have?
- 2) **Editorial Vision** – MC Canada and Regional Churches would like to see more collaboration in setting the general editorial direction and themes for CM, particularly when engaging in controversial issues. What excites you about moving in this direction? What concerns do you have?
- 3) **Every Home Plan (EHP)** – Canadian Mennonite, MC Canada and Regional Churches would all like to expand readership. CM receives \$111,600 from MC Canada and \$137,300 from Regional Churches (31% of budget) for subscriptions. 33% of budget comes from Government of Canada grants, 18% from individual donations, and the rest from advertising revenue and other sources of income. In MCA, church administrators keep track of subscription lists and MCA pays for subscriptions. In some regions, congregations receive subscriptions in bulk, while in others, congregations pay for their own subscriptions. What do you appreciate about our current EHP arrangement? What concerns do you have? How might we envision new ways to grow and finance subscriptions?

Moderator

Brenda Tiessen-Wiens

At a recent General Council meeting we were invited to share ways in which our church and MCA involvements have deepened our sense of belonging to God. Some people shared personal stories, while others talked about community gatherings where God's presence and urging was sensed.

I'm inspired when I hear stories about God's people growing, connecting, and feeling that they belong! I'm grateful for the dedicated work of MCA staff and committee members in creating space for these encounters with God. 2019 was full of these spaces! In our Vision 20/20 gatherings, imaginations were ignited about prayer, spirituality and building community. Emerging from the Vision process is "E3" - Encountering, Embracing, Embodying Christ in life, in community, and in the world. E3 will provide a guide for the next three years as we navigate and adapt to our changing world. At Faith Studies in May, we explored biblical storytelling. At Healthy Boundaries in October we pushed at understandings of what healthy relationships look like in our churches and lives. Events for 2020 are taking shape, including a nationwide study conference in October focused on "Rethinking Dinner - the Essence of Church." People who participate in these events are valuable resources in our churches as they return ready to share, work and lead.

Twenty-nineteen was a year where we were drawn into community through the programs that are dear to our hearts: Camp Valaqua, North Edmonton Ministry, and Women's Retreat. In these places, our spiritual centres were nurtured, we were challenged to consider how we relate to our neighbours and how we live in our world.

Through our Regional Church covenant and partnerships with other organizations, our ministries extend and touch countless lives. Indigenous Settler Relations, International Witness, Canadian Mennonite University, Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Rosthern Junior College, CommonWord Bookstore & Resource Centre, and Canadian Mennonite magazine are just a handful of ways that our mission is fulfilled in its broadest contexts. Assembly 2020 will provide the opportunity to connect with people in our nationwide church, including Jeanette Hanson, who will discuss how churches can develop global relationships through Witness Support Networks.

If you registered online, you've already found our new website at mcab.ca. We're excited about the possibilities the website opens up to share about who we are and to invite others to join us. The best way to keep in touch with events, stories and reflections from people in our churches is to subscribe to the weekly MCA Communiqué.

In the coming year we will be reviewing our bylaws, constitution, and policies. As I read these documents, I'm struck by the breadth of our calling. We witness in proclaiming Jesus as Lord; we equip, support and plant congregations; we nurture current and future leaders; we worship, celebrate, and foster spiritual well-being; we commit to nationwide and global partnerships; we facilitate mutual accountability. Look for opportunities later in the year for input in this review process, in anticipation of revisions to be presented at 2021 Annual Assembly.

When we turn to our budget, we see some challenges. We ended 2019 with a \$23,000 shortfall. While congregations fulfilled their commitments, we did not meet our targets in individual giving. On the expense side, we had some cost over-runs. In planning for 2020, not all congregations find that they can offer the same levels of support as in past years. This has implications for all of us, and we will be presenting a deficit budget to delegates. While this may feel uncomfortable, this is not the first time that MCA has planned in this manner. As we consider the budget, we also hear people speak with passion about our current commitments. We have been invited to explore new opportunities, including an invitation to do training with South Sudanese and Ethiopian brothers and sisters. We have not included this in the budget, but have encouraged committees to find creative ways to tap into people's desires and callings, and to continue exploring ways for people to engage meaningfully in the work that we do together.

We have also not included a Church Engagement position in the budget. We have a number of congregations that would benefit from this role, as it is intended to build capacity in emerging congregations and to assist all congregations in fulfilling their missional callings, both here and globally. Over the coming year, General Council will determine how and if we can do the work that needs to be done within our current staff and committee realities.

There will be much to absorb as we gather! As always, I look forward to our times of worship and to the bonds that grow as we spend time together. I invite you to come with an openness to seeing Christ in one another as we celebrate, review, worship, discern and covenant together. When you return to your home congregations, my prayer is that you will be equipped and enlivened to share about MCA and to explore new ways in which we can fulfill our common vision and purpose.

Brenda Tiessen-Wiens

Moderator, Mennonite Church Alberta

Executive Minister

Tim Wiebe-Neufeld

As I reflect on the past year in the life of MCA and look toward the future, the word “identity” keeps running through my mind. Identity is a concept central to our faith. Isaiah 43 reminds us that we belong to God. Galatians 3:26 states, “In Christ Jesus you are all children of God.” In Acts 17:28 Paul reminds us that “In God we live and move and have our being”. These scriptures and others remind us that we are God’s people: “We are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.” (Eph 2: 10).

This past year we as MCA have been contemplating what it means to live into the way of life God has prepared for us. Through our Vision 2020 process we have reflected on what it means to open ourselves to God’s leading. What is God calling us to release and what is God calling us to embrace? How do we surrender in trust to God, so that we may live more fully as the people God is calling us to be?

Last November at our final visioning event with Betty Pries we revealed a three-year action plan to help us answer these questions. In the years to come we will seek to incarnate God’s call through the theme, “Encountering, Embracing, Embodying Christ in life, in community, and in the word.” During 2020 we will focus on ways we have encountered Christ in our lives, ponder how we might be called to embrace Christ’s presence in new ways, and seek to more fully embody Christ in all aspects of life. Watch for ideas, lists of actions, and encouragement as we live into this calling as individuals, congregations, and as MCA as a whole.

A second outcome of our visioning process is deeper grounding for reflection on what it means to be “MCA” together. The restructuring of the Mennonite church in Canada means revisions to our MCA constitution, bylaws, and other guiding documents. As we undertake this review in the next year we have the opportunity to re-energize our understandings of the relationship we share. How might we more clearly state what it means to be people and congregations of MCA? How do we nurture our connections, build relationships, and more closely walk alongside each other through the blessings and challenges of being the church in today’s world? How might our documents more fully capture the essence of what it means to be part of the MCA family?

Linked to these understandings are questions of goals and priorities for the ministries we do together. The areas of focus for MCA’s ministries include:

1. BUILDING AND NURTURING RELATIONSHIPS. Many of MCA’s ministries give opportunities for personal connections, whether it be involvement at Camp Valaqua, attendance at Women’s Retreats, taking part in dialogue events with the North Edmonton Ministry, or serving on MCA’s Committees. There is continued encouragement to nurture connections between congregations, especially with congregations from different ethnic backgrounds. Congregational exchanges are being considered as one means to move towards this priority area.

2. SUPPORTING CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP. Pastors and lay leaders are essential for helping us be the church together. One of the most enjoyable

Year I (2020)

Christ in LIFE

How do we . . .

- . . . nurture our relationship with God?
- . . . claim prayer & spiritual disciplines?
- . . . remember that we are deeply beloved?
- . . . Open ourselves to transformation in Christ?

Year II (2021)

Christ in COMMUNITY

How do we . . .

- . . . practice deep community, hospitality and welcome in our congregations?
- . . . allow ourselves to heal from old narratives (past conflicts, feeling small) so that we can celebrate God’s activity among us?
- . . . form the character of our community so that we reveal the face of Christ to the world?

Year III (2022)

Christ in the WORLD

How are we . . .

- . . . being invited to pour ourselves out as the Body of Christ for the world, bringing healing and hope to a world in need?
- . . . being called by God to engage with the world?

aspects of my role comes through connecting with pastors. Pastors Council meetings are a highlight. I thank God for the blessing MCA receives through this group of faith-focused leaders.

Recognizing leadership gifts through credentialing and ordination is another important role of the broader church. This past year it was deeply meaningful to be part of services of ordination for Caleb Kowalko at First Calgary and Heather Klassen at Foothills, and at Bethel International for a transfer of ordination for Mezgebu Tucho and licensing for Befikadu Shigut.

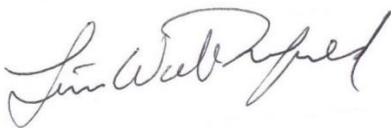
MCA Moderator Brenda and I have also enjoyed the opportunity to connect with many lay leaders from MCA congregations, asking them to share their excitements and challenges. In the coming year we plan to continue to connect with congregations and consider how we might be of support as the broader Mennonite church.

3. PROVIDING RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY. This report book is filled with descriptions of various ministries we engage in as part of a broader church. Through MCA and our broader relationships congregations are provided with resources for their internal ministries as well as ministries beyond their doors. Some of these include:

- **International ministry partnerships** in places like Thailand, Ethiopia, and Columbia.
- **Supports for Christian education** at Canadian Mennonite University, Rosthern Junior College, Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, and other Anabaptist schools.
- **Nationwide gatherings** of the Mennonite Church, such as in Abbotsford in the summer of 2019, and a Study Conference near Kitchener coming up in the fall of 2020.
- **Worship material, electronic resources, and more from** CommonWord Resource Centre.
- **Reconciliation work** through the Indigenous-Settlers Relations program. In 2019 this included a “walk for common ground” from Edmonton to Calgary.
- **Encouragement for missional engagement.** In April of 2019 this included a weekend “Mission Consultation” in Calgary involving the 5 regions of MC Canada to assist in learning background and setting goals for aligning ourselves with God’s mission in the world.

This partial list demonstrates how the ministries we share as MCA go far beyond our provincial borders. Our identity-defining relationships reach across Canada through the covenant we share with the other regional churches to form MC Canada. They reach around the world through Mennonite World Conference. And they reach beyond denominational boundaries as we are joined in Jesus Christ.

I pray that in the year ahead we may more fully live into being the people God is calling us to be!



Tim Wiebe-Neufeld
Executive Minister

North Edmonton Ministry (NEM)

Donna Entz

You at MCA again walked with me through this enriching and challenging year. In my neighbourhood, our English program is stronger with good volunteer teachers. At the first class in the New Year, the students joyfully reconnected with each other. The Community Garden was a huge amount of work because we set up in a new location, and the garden did well. But some are not interested in the community building aspect. A desire to reconnect people in our apartment block was rekindled as a small committee met since November. With partners including “Abundant Community Initiative” of the city, we planned an event that Boardwalk paid the space for. All was well, except only 2 families showed up, out of many who had committed. We are now recalibrating!

Several of us have begun studying about how to walk as an ally. For I am seeking direction on creating healthy relationships with minority communities: Sudanese, Palestinians, West Africans, and Turkish. I have also been inspired by studying a Muslim visionary leader, Fethullah Gulen. He understands deeply the power of faith to change a society for the better.

As to the work of [A Common Word Alberta](#), an event planner has increased the capacity of our committee, so we are planning smaller events, leading up to the major Dialogue in October, the 24th in 2020. God also brought a Muslim woman to us, who is passionate about working with young adults and does Dialogue circles. The yearly Muslim/Christian Dialogue experienced lower attendance, but the excellent event generated more interest in the monthly book study and reading the Holy Books together. We praise God for new energy, some from the evangelical perspective.

Recently, Islamic Family and Social Services, sent 22 people from their sewing class to join the First Mennonite Women to make 34 quilts in one day. Excitement on all sides! This past year, there have been exchange visits between First Mennonite church and the Shia Persian mosque. For that reason, ten from First Mennonite were able to attend the memorial there after the plane crash in Iran. So Mennonites are also involved with the English classes, the Dialogue, and the monthly gatherings, and especially gifted at engaging those who celebrate religious holidays in my home. I praise God for a stronger collective witness as we engage Muslims. Thank You!

Treasurer

Tany Warkentin

As Mennonite Church Alberta’s Treasurer, I work to keep the finances in order. This includes processing staff payroll, making payments and receiving donations, and keeping organized financial records. There have been some changes this past year that have affected finances, so I helped implement a new online donation system with lower processing fees and have offered input on the set-up of MCA’s new website and donation webpage. In order to keep in touch with other MCA staff and committee members, I attend All-Committee meetings and am a part of the Finance Committee.

I love serving the church and find this role to be a great way to keep connected with what our regional church is doing and getting to know other church leaders and MCA supporters across Alberta. Relating to others who are striving to faithfully serve Jesus and our church is what inspires me most in my work with MCA.

Camp Director

Jon Olfert

We once again had an incredible summer season in 2019. The season saw the highest total of campers since 2006! 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 2019 was 436, a 12% increase from 2018. The importance of this number cannot be overlooked, but the power of camp isn't in that number. The power of camp is in the stories of exploration and growth that fill this space with laughter and shouts. The thing that keeps me coming back season over season isn't "the number," but the stories. The stories of growth and exploration. Stories of "firsts." First time in the river, first time doing the actions to boogaloo around the campfire, first time telling your personal story of faith. I don't have a lot of firsts left myself, but I relish the opportunity to be part of all of the firsts.

Our ministry opportunities continue to be crystal clear with over 78% 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 \$5,000 in campership aid to help 30 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!

Our Garden Program continued to flourish as well and the PIT Crew participants spent many hours weeding, watering, and playing in the dirt. It was so wonderful to eat fresh local greens for much of August!

Out-trips: Our out-trip program continued to be a strength at Camp Valaqua with Laura Fawcett taking the reigns of the program and running a full slate of great, safe trips. We cancelled one trip (the Jr Backpack) due to low registration, but the rest of the trips ran smoothly and were well attended.

Facility Upgrades: We are so grateful to announce that our Bathroom renovation project is now completely paid off! Thank you to all of the donors who supported this project. We continue to get compliments on the facility.

Valaqua the rest of the year: Valaqua also continues to be a busy place all year long with Scout groups, family reunions, Quilters, and many other groups choosing to host their gatherings in our beautiful corner of God's garden. Valaqua is booked almost every weekend of the year and in peak seasons (June, September) we are often busy with midweek bookings as well. Valaqua also serves host to MCA events such as the Youth Leadership Team's annual Snowcamps, Pastor's Retreats, and many Church Retreats. We are so happy to be able to share our wonderful camp with so many other people and groups!

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!

Leadership Support Staff:

Program Director: Michael Taves

CIT Director: Dayna Goerzen

Office Manager: Kaya Thiessen

Out-Trip Director: Laura Fawcett

Assistant Out-Trip: Andrew Fawcett

PIT Crew Director: Cassidy Brown

Camp Gardener: Jessi Peters

Head Cook: Helen Schellenberg

Assistant Cook: Zoe Jobson

Counselors and CITs

Male Counselors:

Darian Wiebe-Neufeld
Jaden Krahn
Zachary LeDuke
Noah Thiessen
Jacob Sola

Female Counselors:

Rachel Hunsberger
Alexa Dyck
Claire Dueck
Kaitlyn Peters
Jessie Brandt
Elena Kroeker
Avery Krahn

Female CITs:

Jenna Blank
Cassidy Janzen
Maria Storkova
Erynn Anderson
Charlene Lauzier
Danika Warkentin
Tianna Prior
Hannah Sawatsky
Zoe Jobson
Rebecca Pytyck
Danaka Feddema
Trinity Shannon
Chelsea Deren
Elise Feddema

Male CITs:

Sam Jobson
Devlin Patrick
Seth Shellenberg
Elijah Koop
Zak Weir
Jeremy Wiens
Tino Bergen

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 eighth 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 fourth full season to Valaqua, serving in the kitchen for the entire summer. Rudy brings such a sense of play and also 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 “In the Light of Love” 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.

Chaplains, summer 2019

Family Camp Jan Wilhelm
Breakaway I MCC Alberta
Discovery Don Douglas
Explorer I Nicole Wiens

Explorer II Joani Neufeldt
Adventurer I Craig Neufeld
Adventurer II Will Loewen

Youth Leadership Team: I continue to be involved with mentoring the Youth Leadership Team. Chad Miller and I have been working with this group for many years and it continues to be fun and inspiring. We hosted our Snowcamp a few weeks ago and it was a great success with 45 youth attending.

Conclusion: It has been a year of blessings here at Valaqua! We were blessed to host an amazing group of summer campers, we have been blessed to be busy with rental bookings, and we have been hugely blessed by the support of all of you in our Mennonite Church Alberta family. We can't wait to Thank you!

Jon Olfert, Camp Director

Camper Registration By Week

Camp	2019				2018		
	Campers	Capacity	% Capacity		Campers	Capacity	% Capacity
Family Camp	65	65	100%		54	80	68%
Breakaway	32	48	66%		29	60	48%
Discovery	24	48	50%		29	48	60%
Discovery Days	11	10	110%		6	8	75%
Explorer I	59	60	98%		46	60	76%
Explorer II	60	60	98%		45	60	75%
Adventurer I	62	60	103%		56	60	93%
Adventurer II	60	60	100%		63	60	105%
Breakaway II							
PIT Crew I	9	8	113%		9	8	113%
PIT Crew II	8	8	100%		10	8	125%
PIT Lite I	10	8	125%		9	8	113%
PIT Lite II	8	8	100%				
TOTAL ON SITE	408	443	92%		356	460	77%
Mt Bike Camp							
Jr Backpack	0	12	0%		9	12	75%
Sr Backpack	4	12	30%		4	12	33%
Jr Canoe	6	12	50%		10	12	83%
Sr Canoe	9	9	100%		6	12	50%
Adventure Training Camp	9	8	113%		4	8	50%
ATC Extreme							
DIAD							
TOTAL OUTTRIP	28	53	53%		33	56	59%
TOTAL CAMPERS	436	496	88%		389	516	75%

Camper Registration By Church

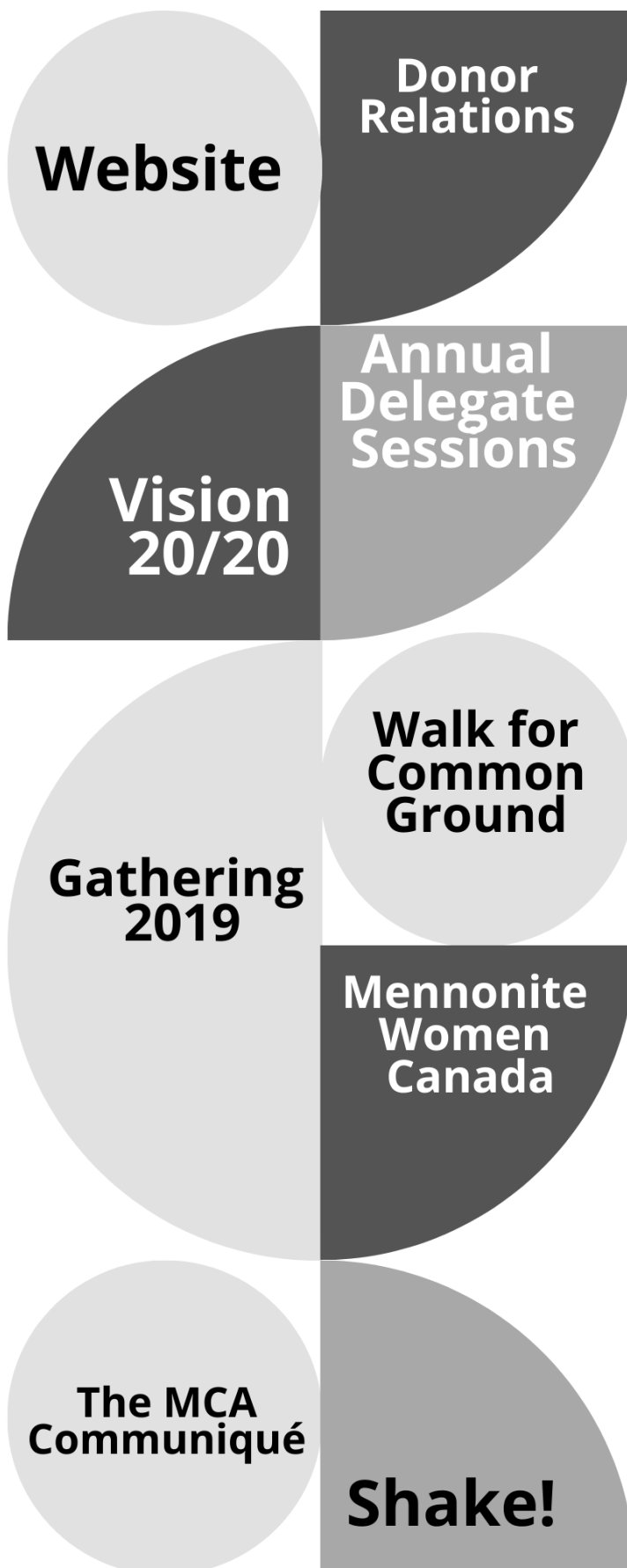
	'19	'18	'17	'16	'15	'14	'13	'12	'11	'10	'09
<i>Bergthal MC</i>	1	2	2	6	3	2	2	4	7	3	10
<i>Camrose Mennonite Fellowship</i>			2						2		
<i>First Mennonite Calgary</i>	6	7	6	7	8	7	6	5	3	4	4
<i>First Mennonite Edmonton</i>	5	6	11	12	12	6	17	24	15	21	22
<i>Foothills MC</i>	14	15	14	16	28	27	31	35	33	46	44
<i>Holyrood MC</i>	3	6	2		6	5	7			3	5
<i>Lethbridge MC</i>	1	1	1	5	5	5	11	2	3	1	6
<i>Rosemary MC</i>								2	3		
<i>Tofield MC</i>											1
<i>Trinity MC</i>	3	4	6	8	9	12	12	20	14	21	31
<i>Springridge MC</i>	1	2	2	1			3				
<i>South Sudanese Edmonton MC</i>	10	11	7	5	11						
<i>Word of Life</i>											
TOTAL MENNONITE	44	54	53	60	82	64	89	92	80	99	123
Other Church	48	24	40	49	105	98	98	106	96	107	106
No Church	344	281	264	247	203	181	152	106	95	116	105
GRAND TOTAL	436	359	357	356	390	331	339	304	271	322	334

2019 COMMUNICATIONS

Using Communications
to create Community.

NATCOMM: Collaborative
creation of Regional and
Nationwide websites;
Reporting on MC Canada
events.

MCA Committees:
Supporting MCA with
practical communication
needs.



Committee

Camp Valaqua

Kevin Stoesz

Camp continues to be a significant part of MCA as a whole. As we have approached 2020 I feel that Camp Valaqua continues to be a strong ministry for all of our churches across Alberta. We continue to be thankful for all of the wonderful things camp provides such as but not limited to; a wonderful summer program, providing leadership opportunities for our youth as well as creating a sacred space for church retreats.

After completing the bathroom renovations, we are excited to start looking into what the next steps for camps capital projects are and how we can move forward in continuing to improve our camp.

Fundraising- In 2019 we have paid off the bathroom renovations loan of \$60 000.00. We appreciate all the support we have received over the last year paying off this project. In 2019 we hosted three fundraising events. First in February we hosted our annual trivia night, hosted in Edmonton and Calgary simultaneously, which has continued to show great success. We held a free will offering again this year at the Garden Party in June. And lastly our annual Hike-a-thon ran again this last year, despite low numbers we were still able to raise over \$10,000. We want to continue to thank you for your support of Camp Valaqua. As we move into 2020 we would like to continue to ask for your support through donations in making Camp Valaqua such a huge success. We continue to look at ways to promote Camp Valaqua in order to attract new campers to our program.

Our summer camp program is a major part of what Valaqua provides, however camp continues to be used throughout the year. We are excited about the number of rentals that the camp has during the year. Camp books up fast and each year there are fewer and fewer weeks available for rent. The white house at top of the hill is also available for rent. Contact Jeff Schellenberg at camp for more information regarding rentals.

We acquired two new vehicles in 2019, a new to us camp van and truck. Having a few hick-ups to start with, we have come to much appreciate the additions of both the van and truck at Valaqua.

We are excited to host our fourth annual Garden Party this spring. The Hike-a-thon will occur on June 13th followed by the Garden party on June 14th. Everyone is invited to come to camp Valaqua for a morning worship service, lunch and then activities around camp. More information on this to come.

Camp Valaqua is a mission of MCA which involves a large community of dedicated people. This includes Jon Olfert, our director, Jeff Schellenberg, our camp manager, and all the summer staff who promote Valaqua's legacy. Camp would not function without volunteers who assist with maintenance, kitchen duties, chaplaincy and many other requirements. In addition, the financial support of many enables Camp to function. Camp allows many children both within the MCA church as well as children with no church affiliation to create lasting relationships both with themselves and with God. We give a huge thanks that the mission of camp is able to reach many. We are also thankful for the support of numerous people who make everything we do possible.

Camp Committee: Kevin Stoesz, Deanna Willms, Dan Nielsen, Albert Goerzen, Christine Hansplant, Wayne Janz

Congregational Leadership

Werner DeJong

The Congregational Leadership Committee (CLC) began with a new slate of members in 2019: Anna-Lisa Salo, Ryan Dueck, and Werner De Jong. Continuity came through the presence of Mennonite Church Alberta (MCA) Executive Minister, Tim Wiebe-Neufeld, who sits with the committee. As the members of the CLC were all new, our first order of business was to familiarize ourselves with our mandate from the MCA Constitution. Second, we assigned roles for ourselves: Anna-Lisa became the Secretary, and Werner became the Chairperson.

Our first assignment was to organize the annual Faith Studies event. It was held at Lethbridge Mennonite Church from May 13-15, 2019, with 10-12 people attending the various daytime sessions, and up to 25 participating in the evening sessions. Pastor Ken Quiring, of Grace Mennonite Church in Brandon, MB, presented on the theme “Biblical Storytelling: The Transformative Power of Sacred Story.”

This year we decided to replace the fall pastor’s retreat with a Healthy Boundaries workshop, which was open to all leaders of MCA churches, which was held at Trinity Mennonite Church on Oct. 19, 2019, and led by Marilyn Rudy-Froese, Church Leadership Minister with Mennonite Church Eastern Canada. About 30 people attended from across the province. The importance of considering how to establish healthy boundaries within congregations is a subject which is increasing in awareness in many church denominations. CLC is considering whether to organize a boundaries training workshop on a more regular basis (perhaps every 3-5 years).

The CLC is also responsible for overseeing the credentialing of church leaders within MCA. On July 28, 2019, a celebratory service was held at Bethel International Church Oromo Congregation in Edmonton, as Pastor Mezgebu Tucho’s ordination credentials were transferred to MCA, and Befiqadu Baqalla (following an earlier interview) was licensed for ministry. CLC also conducted an ordination interview with Caleb Kowalko. First Mennonite Church in Calgary joyfully ordained Caleb on October 20, 2019.

CLC also organizes the ongoing Pastor’s Council meetings, which meets approximately every quarter, and provides an opportunity for pastors and other MCA leaders to support and pray for one another.

CLC decided to switch the order of 2020’s Pastor’s Retreat and Faith Studies Conference; the retreat will be held in the spring, and Faith Studies will be held in the fall. The pastor’s retreat will be facilitated by Donna Dinsmore at Camp Valaqua from April 28-30. It is open to all who attend the Pastor’s Council, and any interested spouses. The retreat will emphasize spiritual reflection, rest and rejuvenation, and is intended to help our pastors begin to live into the first year of MCA’s vision on encountering, embracing, and embodying Christ in our personal lives.

CLC has also drawn up guidelines for the disbursement of the Leadership Memorial Fund, a restricted fund managed by CLC, which we want to use up this year.

Respectfully submitted,
Werner De Jong, CLC Chairperson

Mission & Service

Vince Friesen

Mission and Service has had another year of a variety of activities that have brought the voice of MCA to the broader community. Our largest program continues to be North Edmonton Ministries where Donna Entz works at building bridges between Muslim and Christian groups. Donna again was instrumental in organizing a successful Muslim-Christian Dialogue event held on October 26, 2019. Donna's work also includes daily ongoing bridge building through teaching, potlucks, attending various prayer services, committee work, etc. This effort has helped bring greater understanding between neighbours throughout Edmonton.

Jake Froese has kept the idea of establishing a similar Christian-Muslim initiative in Calgary alive through his meetings with Muslim groups in that city. Mission and Services works at providing advice and moral support as Jake works at moving this initiative forward.

Mission and Service has become more involved in hearing about and helping with the struggles faced by the South Sudanese community in Alberta and by extension the South Sudanese in South Sudan and Ethiopia. William Tut, a member of Mission and Service and a member of the South Sudanese community, keeps us informed as to what the needs of the community are. William also, on his own initiative, went to South Sudan and Ethiopia to visit family and the many Christian congregations in that area. Mission and Service is aware of the need for leadership development in South Sudan and has been investigating the possibilities of sending a pastoral instructor to that area. We hope to have something in place within a year. We also continue to support the South Sudanese Church in Edmonton. Jake Froese has been assisting in making connections between South Sudanese individuals in Calgary and Calgary-area Mennonite churches.

Mission and Service has finished its one-year bridging agreement with MCC and its Prison Visitation Program. This agreement ends in 2020 and the leaders of the program believe the time has come for the program to go in a new direction that will not require MCA support. We thank all of the people who have worked in this program and ask for God's blessing for the new directions that these programs take.

In the coming year Mission and Service will need to explore ways in which MCA will support International Witness. We expect to be doing this in collaboration with Mennonite Church Canada. Some of this work will also include new initiatives in Church Engagement where we will work more closely with individual churches and their ideas of witnessing God's word.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vince Friesen
Chair, Mission and Service

Program and Festival

Karen Janz

The Program & Festival Committee Members are: Chad Miller, Karen Janz, Paul Neufeldt (MCA Vice-Moderator). Our committee is involved in planning and organizing the Annual Assembly, and in 2019 we also assisted in the planning of the fall Vision 20/20 Gathering.

The 2019 Assembly was hosted by Bergthal Mennonite Church (Didsbury, AB) March 15-16. The theme of the two-day session was Vision 2020 Faith (Re)Focused - Phase III: Discerning God's Call. Thank you to Bergthal Church for opening your church to us for this event and to all of those involved in putting it on. Betty Pries, as a facilitator of our visioning process, guided us through discussions on *Wilderness Spirituality*, *Where we have been & Where we are going*, *Re-reading our time: "Harvesting" our reflections following the season of prayer*, and *Living the stance that opens us to God's ongoing presence and leading*. These were key learnings that many attendees took back and shared with their individual congregations. There were 80 in attendance over the two days: 12 registered as MCA Members, 48 Delegates and 20 Guests.

The fall Vision 20/20 Gathering - Phase IV: Incarnating God's Call was held at First Mennonite Church (Calgary, AB) Nov 1-2 where Betty Pries walked us through different approaches to prayer. Anneli Loepp-Thiessen also attended the event to share songs from the new Voices Together Hymnal. Thank you to First Mennonite Calgary and all of those involved in this event. There were approximately 50 people in attendance.

The MCA Assembly over the next three years (2020 – 2022) will focus on the outcomes of the Vision 20/20 process. Our committee along with Tim Wiebe-Neufeld and the Reference Group have decided on the theme:

Encountering, Embracing, Embodying Christ: in Life, in Community, in the World

2020 Encountering, Embracing, Embodying Christ **in Life**,

2021 Encountering, Embracing, Embodying Christ **in Community**,

2022 Encountering, Embracing, Embodying Christ **in the World**

Planning of the Assembly 2020 has been underway for a few months with the Edmonton First Mennonite Planning Committee.

Although not confirmed, our committee is considering planning an event in the fall of 2020 where all MCA churches can come together and worship with singing songs from the new Voices Together Hymnal.

Combining Committees: The General Council has proposed the combining of Program and Festival and Community Building committees, as the responsibilities of these two committees are quite similar. Our two committees are working together on how we can effectively combine our efforts and resources.

Respectfully Submitted by Karen Janz

Community Building

Coreen Froese & Kate Janzen

In 2019 we worked to figure out new ways that this committee could assist MC Alberta churches to connect and share stories. Together with June we contacted churches to gather stories of what they are doing, events happening, activities, which were then shared in the newsletter and on Facebook. Going forward we would like to find other ways for churches to come together: share prayer requests, meet for church exchanges and continue telling their stories. The “Christmas greetings” video was a big hit so we hope to start a new tradition, and recently discussed doing one for Easter.

We were able to offer the MC Alberta bursary fund to 8 students attending Anabaptist Post Secondary schools. We will be reaching out to them shortly to find out how their year of studies has gone. Their stories will then be shared in the newsletter and/or Facebook.

The Women’s Retreat was a great success, with Irma Fast-Dueck as the speaker. As always this was a wonderful time of fellowship and laughter. Plans are well underway for the 2020 Retreat.

We have met with Karen (Program and Festival Committee) to discuss merging the two committees.

Mennonite Church Canada



Year in Review 2019

Executive Minister Doug Klassen has seen God's presence at work over the past six months:

- in each one of the nine congregations I preached in this past fall (Springstein, Vineland United Mennonite, Langham, Carman, Altona, Springridge, Lethbridge and Orodara and Bobo-Dioulasso in Burkina Faso). I experienced a genuine invitation to faith in Jesus Christ and the offer of joining the community as it lives into what God is calling it to be;
- at the Continuing Education Event and Equipping Day hosted by Mennonite Church Saskatchewan in mid-October. It was an excellent time of learning;
- at the Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission partnership council meetings in Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso. I brought forward several new joint-project ideas thanks to generous donors who wish to see our ministry continue;
- in Joint Council and Executive Staff Group meetings, where we are excited to see the vision emerging of who we are becoming as a nationwide church. Comprised of faithful local congregations, gathered into regional church bodies, we come together as Mennonite Church Canada to form a people of God through relationship-building, partnership and resourcing.



Overall, we are grateful to report strong numbers in the first three quarters of our current fiscal year which reflect our growing ministry:

- Our sales revenue has grown by 8.2 per cent, including a significant 24 per cent increase in general book sales.
- We expect to again serve over 10,000 retail customers this year (up one per cent from last year's third quarter).
- The number of borrowers has remained the same. The quantity of items borrowed has increased by seven per cent.
- Of items borrowed by Mennonite Church Canada congregations, a record 56 per cent circulated outside Manitoba (up from 49 per cent last year), including increases in MCBC, MCA and MC Sask.

International Witness

International ministry continues in Thailand, South Korea, China and the Philippines through the work of our nine Witness workers and our ministry partners. Please remember in your prayers:

- Dann and Joji Pantoja (Philippines)
- George and Tobia Veith; Jeanette Hanson (China)
- Bock Ki Kim and Sook Kyoung Park (South Korea)
- Tom and Christine Poovong (Thailand)

International Witness updates from 2019:

- Jason Martin stepped down as director at the end of July 2019. We are thankful for his faithful service during difficult years of transition. Jeanette Hanson is currently interim director.
- Using feedback gained through the formation of the Witness Support Team (WST) model, International Witness is currently transforming WSTs into Networks of sustainable support for our Witness programs. Instead of relying on individual members, these networks will be congregationally based. More information on the Networks is forthcoming in 2020.
- Mennonite Church Canada is exploring new ministry partnerships in Bolivia, Palestine-Israel and Myanmar.

Indigenous-Settler Relations (ISR)

Highlights:

- The Treaty Walk (May 31 to June 14), co-created by the Health Sciences Association of Alberta, ISR, and Dr. Pat Makokis, was a two-week-long walk from Edmonton to Calgary to raise awareness of Treaty relationships. Folks on the walk facilitated conversation circles in a dozen churches and community centres by bringing together Indigenous people, union workers and members of faith communities in intercultural and international friendship.
- Three new video resources were created in partnership with ISR: Treaty Walk, This Fight Continues: 262 & The Declaration, and Demand 1: Adopt the Declaration.
- ISR facilitated a delegation of 15 Mennonites from across the country to participate in NAIIITS: An Indigenous Learning Community's Symposium on "Land and Place" at Tyndale University College in Toronto, Ont. on June 6-8.
- In support of the Global Climate Strike on Sept. 27, ISR coordinated two interfaith prayer gatherings and helped mobilize Christian communities for participation.
- ISR issued another print run of *Unsettling the Word: Biblical Experiments in Decolonization*. Paperback editions are now available through CommonWord.

For our full report go to <https://www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/66/21909>. Blessings to your congregation this New Year!

Sincerely,

Doug Klassen
Executive Minister

Our Nationwide Family

Mennonite Church Eastern Canada



MCEC

201 - 50 Kent Avenue,
Kitchener ON, N2G 3R1
Telephone: Local 226-476-2500
Toll Free 855-476-2500
Website: www.mcec.ca

2019 in Ministry



"I encourage us to become more aware of God's Presence within and among us, so that in living more deeply into that Presence, we become the very living, breathing Presence of God in our world."

- David Martin, MCEC Executive Minister, 2019

Leadership Development and Support

"The Regional Ministry Associate role has brought more attention to the listening and caring elements of support for our pastors," says Al Rempel, Regional Minister. Kevin Derksen, Cathrin van Sintern-Dick and Roberson Mbayamvula intentionally provide pastoral care and support for pastors through their role as Regional Ministry Associates. Each RMA ministers part-time in a distinct geographic region. The RMAs, along with Marilyn Rudy-Froese, Church Leadership Minister, and Al Rempel form the church leadership team and attend to the care of pastors.



Regional Ministry Associates work together to provide pastoral care and support to pastors across MCEC.

Congregational Renewal

"I've been in church all of my life and I think this has been one of the most impactful frameworks for being church together," says Kelly Freeman, member of West Hills Mennonite Church in Baden, ON and participant in ReLearning Community, a two-year spiritual journey that encourages us to question our assumptions about discipleship as we engage those around us with the gospel story. Twenty-two MCEC congregations have been, or are currently, a part of ReLearning Community.

Two Congregations Become Full Members

• Markham Christian Worship Centre, Markham, ON

"As a church we are here to sow the seed and make disciples. It is God who brings the growth," says Pastor Kapilan Savarimuthu. With roots in Sri Lanka, this predominantly Tamil congregation moved into full membership with MCEC in April 2019. They meet regularly for worship, prayer throughout the week and have an active ministry in local hospitals praying with patients.

• Refuge de Paix, Sherbrooke, QC

This small congregation in Sherbrooke, QC worships in Spanish and offers settlement and assistance ministry to Hispanic migrants who have arrived in Quebec. "Most of the people that we see do not have family here," says Pastor Lucy Roca. "We welcome, encourage, accompany and help them according to their needs – to be a testimony of help and concern in caring for our brothers and sisters."



MCEC - 12,500 members - 104 congregations

Mennonite Church Manitoba



Our vision is to be a community of congregations unified in Jesus Christ, living a biblical Anabaptist faith, together presenting Jesus Christ to the world

MCM Congregations

40 Churches
20-765 Membership Range
7200 Members Total

Congregational Ministry

Worship

- Worship happens regularly at 40 sites in Manitoba, each with it's own uniqueness and beauty.
- Music

Nurture

- Children's Ministry

Mission

- Partnership Circles
- Refugee resettlement
- DVBS

Housing

- Lindenwood Group, Bethel Place, Kingsford House, Bethany Group

Schools

- Westgate Mennonite Collegiate
- Mennonite Collegiate Institute

There is a beautiful concept in our Nation Wide covenant that suggests: When we focus on the ministry we do together we abandon the thinking that requires each congregation to be totally sufficient on it's own. We share each others ministry and can bless each other's strengths, and shore up each others weaknesses. This is the Body of Christ!

Our Shared Ministries

Who is sharing?

- In our new structure, the congregations make up Mennonite Church Manitoba (a Regional Church), and the Regional Churches make up Mennonite Church Canada (our Nationwide Church)

Leadership

- Ministerial Leadership Committee
- 90 Pastors
- Education
 - Workshops to provide opportunities for pastors, congregational leaders, young people to grow in their skills, create good and healthy boundaries, and share their ideas

- Safe Church - workshops for pastors and leaders; response to trespasses
- Youth and Young Adult

Mission (Regional and Nationwide)

- International Witness
 - connecting support to global ministry
- Indigenous Settler Relationships
- Camping (Camps with Meaning)
 - plans for a major camp development at Camp Assiniboia

Communications and website development

- new MC Canada, MC Manitoba sites soon
- 4 pilot churches and Camps with Meaning in the new year

CommonWord (Bookstore and Resource Centre)

Canadian Mennonite University

- partnership with Prairie Regional Churches

Budget

- beginning 2020, the Camp budget will be viewed separately from the MCM budget.

A word of encouragement

This is my last report to you as I have resigned from this role as of summer 2020. In the past 9+ years we have restructured our camping ministry, we have restructured the Nation Wide Church, we have prepared for a redevelopment of Camp Assiniboia, and we have had important and sometimes difficult conversations. In the future I want to encourage you to continue to bless each other in the ministry of your local settings. Your local ministry through worship, nurture, mission, and fellowship is vital to your community but your reach is so much greater than that. Through your fellowship in Christ you share the good news of Jesus all over our

province, our country, and in many other countries. My prayers will always be with you.



Peace, Ken Warkentin

Mennonite Church Saskatchewan



MC Sask Report to Regional Churches

Mennonite Church Saskatchewan (MC Sask) is a community of 27 congregations who have covenanted together to be Christ Centred and Sent. We support each other in ministry, do things together which we cannot do alone, be church together throughout the province and connect to the larger Mennonite Church body through Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite World Conference. We are a mixture of small and large congregations living in urban and rural communities; our smallest being 19 members and our largest 260. About 40 per cent of our congregations average 40 worshipers or less. We are served by 29 active pastors and two chaplains (plus two more on Maternity/Parental Leave). Of this group, 16 are female, 15 are male and 30 per cent are under the age of 40. MC Sask is blessed with this current mix of pastoral leadership who enjoy serving, supporting, and laughing together.

Throughout 2019, MC Sask continued on our three-year *Deepening* journey as we *Deepened our Walk with Each Other*. We walked with each other in a variety of ways:

- at our Annual Delegate Session with David Fitch in March;
- a worship series based on Fitch's *Faithful Presence* material, developed by several MC Sask pastors (available at mcsask.ca);
- Regional Worship Services and a workshop with the *Voices Together* hymnal committee in June;
- a Continuing Education Event focused on our *Life Together* with Tom Yoder Neufeld in October;
- and at our annual Equipping Day, in which we engaged our deepening theme.

Outside of these "formal" MC Sask gatherings, we continue to walk with each other when congregations join together for worship services, when pastors gather monthly for Pastor Peer meetings, and when we serve together on Committees and Commissions both within MC Sask and beyond.

In Fall 2019, MC Sask partnered with Canadian Mennonite University and Susanne Guenther Loewen (Co-Pastor at Nutana Park Mennonite Church) to provide a graduate level course called *Peace, Violence & The Atonement*. We are looking forward to continuing this partnership with CMU to provide another graduate level course starting January 9, 2020, called *Mission in Perspective*, led by Josh Wallace.

Looking ahead to 2020, MC Sask is excited to welcome Arli Klassen, Coordinator of Regional Representatives for Mennonite World Conference and Moderator of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, as our guest speaker at the MC Sask Annual Delegate Sessions, March 13 and 14, 2020 in Saskatoon. The 2020 ADS theme *Deepening our Walk with Each Other & The World* will conclude this year's focus and move us into *Deepening our Walk with our Neighbours*. This will be a weekend of singing, fellowship and reflection, reminding us we are connected to a worldwide body of faith through Mennonite World Conference. But even more than that, "World" has double meaning in this theme. To quote from the MC Sask *Refresh, Refocus, Renew* final report:

Deepening our Walk with our Neighbours: We are being called to turn our faces toward the world, working for wholeness (shalom), joy and reconciliation. (year 3). While our whole journey is missional in nature, we want to take time to focus our energies on how we are being called "to love our neighbours as ourselves." What does this look like practically? To what new (or old) thing is God calling us?

As 27 congregations located in 27 neighbourhoods and communities throughout Saskatchewan, we are well placed to bear witness to the grace and peace of Christ in our time.

In Christ,
Ryan Siemens

Executive Minister, Mennonite Church Saskatchewan

Mennonite Church British Columbia

The MENNONITE CHURCH BRITISH COLUMBIA (MCBC) Story for 2019 Submitted by Garry Janzen

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Colossians 3:12

The primary role of MCBC is to partner with and provide resources for our local MCBC congregations in order that they may thrive. Mennonite Church British Columbia exists to help congregations be *Anabaptist, Missional, and Connected*.

As an initiative to develop our capacity in being a missional Anabaptist church, eight representatives from MCBC participated in a Nationwide Mennonite Church Mission Consultation in Calgary at the end of March. A piece that we took home to remember and work on in MCBC is that *we are a people who are the dearly loved of God*. Betty Pries, a speaker at the consultation, said that we are in a season of reknitting our relationship with God. A sobering reflection shared by Jared Siebert, another one of the resource people, is that while we are planting and watering, God is not giving the growth - God is not giving an increase to our efforts. It is not because we are unfaithful that we are not seeing the growth in our churches that we would hope for. In fact, this could be a time when we are most ready to see God working.

A 2019 highlight for MCBC was to host the first Mennonite Church Canada Nationwide Gathering since restructuring in 2017. This was held on the July long weekend in Abbotsford. Fire starters were a great feature of the Gathering. These were brief stories of how God is igniting the imagination of the church in different ways and in many places across the country – as pointers to the local congregation as the place where the real life of the church happens.

In our International Witness connection, we are growing a relationship with Evangelical Mennonite Church Vietnam and Mennonite Cambodia Church. In late March, I spent five days in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, teaching the Mennonite Cambodia Church congregation what it means to be an Anabaptist Christian. I spent five more days doing the same teaching in Ho Chi Minh City with 45 pastors, representing 40 congregations of the Evangelical Mennonite Church Vietnam. Five of these pastors from Vietnam attended the closing service of the Nationwide Gathering in Abbotsford. We now have one MCBC congregation exploring a relationship with the Vietnam church.

The proposal is to sell the property of the former Clearbrook Mennonite Church. Our delegates called for MCBC to put forward a plan as to how the resulting funds would be used before voting positively on the proposal to sell. The Funds Discernment Task Group has been testing ideas with the MCBC constituency; they will be bringing a plan for the funds to the MCBC Annual Gathering in February of 2020.

Five years ago, MCBC went through a reimagining process that came up with three key themes that represent our values: Anabaptist Identity, Missional Community and Building Connections. A task group has been working at restructuring MCBC's ministries to reflect these themes. There is also an emphasis to be more efficient with our call for volunteers and to make each position more meaningful. Our aim is to have a more functional structure.

We said goodbye to Church of the Way in Granisle, as they have joined another denomination. We are also bringing forward an application from a new Vietnamese congregation seeking to join MCBC.

We are in the midst of many pastoral transitions in our congregations, and we are walking with them in discerning new leadership. With this comes much valuable time spent in prayer, interviews and installation services. We are also working with our congregations towards having all our pastors credentialed. We have two credentials: Ordination and Licencing for Specific Ministry.

We had a wonderful time with Meghan Larissa Good, author of The Bible Unwrapped: Making Sense of Scripture Today as our resource person at our annual Pastor/Spouse Retreat.

Our key theme of building connections with and among our congregations happened through: our Symphony of Hymns fundraising concerts with Calvin Dyck, gatherings with our congregational chairs, a Peace Sunday Service that brought together five Vancouver area congregations, and building relationships with our Indigenous neighbours through the work of Bridget Findlay in our partnership with Mennonite Central Committee British Columbia (MCC BC). We are also seeking to be meaningfully present where there have been strained relationships.

It makes sense that there would be an Anabaptist presence in every community in BC. We are not quite there yet. In our exploration of a potential church plant in Powell River, we learned that they aren't looking to have a Mennonite congregation, but there is an Anabaptist presence through those who are involved with the MCC BC Thrift Shop.

I just want to close with a word of appreciation for Ken Ha. He is the chair of our Church Health Committee. He has been working hard at recruiting new committee members. He is always available for a new pastor or credentialing interview. He has travelled with me to many church visits around BC; he has gone to worship with congregations on his own, and he is always willing to help out where he can. Thanks Ken.

In 2020, we are looking forward to learning about Mental Health at our LEAD Conference on February 28th. We are also looking forward to providing a taste of the global Anabaptist-Mennonite church in Abbotsford on March 28–29, 2020. This is part of a series of annual events around the world in preparation for the Mennonite World Conference Renewal 2027 gathering. Hopefully many of you can join in these opportunities.

Canadian Mennonite



**CANADIAN
MENNONITE**

**2019 Report to
MC Alberta**

Thank you for reading *Canadian Mennonite*! Whether you read the magazine on paper or on your mobile device; whether you visit our website, follow us on social media or not; whether you write letters, post comments, discuss the articles at church or not; we are grateful that you connect with our national church family through *Canadian Mennonite*. There are approximately 10,000 households across Canada who are reading it with you.

The mission of *Canadian Mennonite* is to educate, inspire, inform and foster dialogue on issues facing Mennonites in Canada. To do this, we carry stories of congregations and the people in our communities. We see how members of our church family carry out their lives as disciples of Christ. These are stories of love in action, of doing good, of witnessing for peace and justice.

Canadian Mennonite published 26 issues in 2019, including four that were emailed out as digital-only issues. Each subscriber is welcome to receive digital delivery and keep the print magazine coming by mail. To add digital issues to your subscription, email Lisa Jacky at office@canadianmennonite.org.



**Donita
Wiebe-
Neufeld**

**Joanne
De Jong**

Alberta was well-represented in *Canadian Mennonite* in 2019 with 70 articles, viewpoints and photos. We said good-bye to long-time correspondent Donita Wiebe-Neufeld and welcomed Joanne De Jong to the role of reporting the stories from Alberta. Donita's feature, "When it is hard to go to church" opened our Focus on Mental Health issue in May and was deeply appreciated across the country. Three other Alberta authors contributed feature articles in the year. Tim Wiebe-Neufeld, Vince Friesen and Ryan Dueck contributed to the From Our Leaders column and, in October, we introduced Randy Haluza-Delay as a new columnist.

The content of *Canadian Mennonite* is focused on our church body, but the internet has made us aware that *Canadian Mennonite* also has a role in representing the church to the general public. Online, more than 4,000 people visit the CM website each week. The vast majority of visitors are not connected to a Mennonite Church but are searching for news and information about Mennonite thought and practice. We are grateful that the magazine offers a witness about our faith beyond the Mennonite church family and we thank you for your support.

Ways to connect

- **Subscribe** to the print or digital edition, or both. If you attend an MC Alberta congregation, subscription fees are paid for collectively through the church. Contact your church office for details.
- **Sign up** for "CM Now" — a free, biweekly email with links to recent stories.
- **Write** letters or web comments in response to articles.
- **Follow** CM on Facebook and Twitter.

Financial overview

Annual budget: \$815,000

Revenue: Subscriptions (church and individual) generate 1/3 of revenue. The remainder comes from advertising, donations, and a federal grant that supports Canadian content in magazines.

Expenses: Content creation (writing, editing, layout) accounts for 61% of costs. Printing and postage account for 27%. Administration, including website management, accounts for 12% of expenses.



2019-2020 Fall Enrolment

763 students Shaftesbury campus
(646 FTE)

650 Undergraduate

77 Graduate

36 Outtatown

75% Manitoba; **25%** other provinces
and international

37% Mennonite (MC, MB, EMC...)

46% Ecumenically Diverse (Baptist and
Pentecostal to Catholic and Orthodox)

17% Disclose no church connection

Includes **109** International students
from **31** countries

271 FTE Menno Simons College

(CMU programming at U Winnipeg)

A Faith-Nurturing University Community

- **Outtatown** 20 years of helping students
learn to *Know God, Know themselves, and
Know the world.*

- **Chapels** 3 times weekly, centred on Isaiah
6:3 *Holy, holy, holy is the Lord.*

- **Biblical and Theological Studies**
(BTS) are part of the learning of all students.
18 credit hour minimum of BTS in all
undergraduate degrees, along with BA
Majors in Biblical and Theological Studies
and Christian Ministry.

• Graduate School of Theology and Ministry (GSTM)

- Anabaptist-ecumenical seminary
in a Canadian context
- Partnership with MB Seminary
- Includes livestreamed and intensive
(one week) course delivery

• MA Christian Ministry, MA Theological Studies, Master of Divinity with commitments to:

- Learning and formation
 - Calling and vocation
 - Reflection and praxis
 - Discernment for specific ministry
- **57** students presently enrolled
(26 MA Theological Studies; 23 MA Christian
Ministry; 6 MDiv; 2 Certificate)
 - **17** Mennonite Church; **17** Mennonite
Brethren; **3** EMC; **20** other denominations

Livestreaming: Access various courses,
lectures, Face2Face conversations, Athletics
... wherever you are!

Greetings from Canadian Mennonite University



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.

Highlights below of how this mission is expressed through the
Four CMU Commitments.

Modeling Invitational Community: Integrating faith and life

- In the words of **Mackenzie Nicolle, BA Social Sciences, Rosthern, Saskatchewan**
"Universities like CMU are important. CMU invites students to think about the
big picture, to develop critical and constructive thinking, to understand ideas
from the context of many disciplines working together, and to learn
collaboration with others. CMU also invites commitments to faith and to the
church—commitments infused into all parts of the university. Multiple times each
week we gather in conversation, prayer and worship. Our professors invite students
into the intersection of faith and science, the links between psychology and belief
systems, and the connections between films, stories and the Bible. All this creates a
diverse learning community where care for one another and inspiration to act in
love in the broader world, are paramount."

Educating for Peace-Justice: Seeking the Flourishing of All

- Through a **holistic university experience**, students engage a future with hope,
and seek a bold imagination in relation to deep concerns of today: ecological health,
mental health, vocational health, economic health, political health.
- The learning continues off campus through 41 **Portable CMU** topics, which
strengthen ministry-witness in congregations across Canada.

Learning through Thinking and Doing: Educating for Vocation

- Through interdisciplinary learning and a longstanding service and work-integrated
practicum program, every degree student deepens **vocational discernment** towards
careers in ministry, medicine, farming, law, business, education, social services ... and
more. This applies to all programs in all 19 BA majors, as well as the BBA, BSc, BMus
and BMusTherapy.

Practising Generous Hospitality and Dialogue: Reconciliation

- This year CMU welcomed over **40 Indigenous students**
- The **GSTM** and the **Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre** (a ministry training
centre dedicated to Aboriginal theological education) are working together
in ministry training.
- Senator Mary Jane McCallum will be recognized in April with the **CMU PAX Award**
for her decades of commitment to social justice with, and for, indigenous peoples.
- **face2face** conversations (in-person and livestreamed) focus on issues of faith and life
- this winter on *'Us and Them: How have we become so polarized?'*



RJC Annual Church Report for the 2018-2019 School Year
Submitted by Ryan Wood, Principal

Thank you to all MC SK and AB churches for your support of RJC's mission to prepare young people for lives of faith, service and peacemaking. We strive to fulfill this mission by working closely with home and church to give our students the full support they need. Thank you for your part in this work.

The 2018-2019 school year was a rewarding year. RJC continues to offer excellent academic program with plenty of opportunities for students to participate in athletics and the arts. These opportunities along with our focus on faith and community life continue to provide a full educational experience for our students.

Along with our regular academic, athletic, performing arts, faith and community programs, some highlights from the 2018/19 school year include:

- Hosting our 1st Annual Treaty Six Soccer Tournament in an effort to build relationships with our treaty partners
- Launching and re-branding *RJC Singers* as our new traveling, extra-curricular choir
- Adding a new *International Student Program* in efforts to recruit more international students, and serve them more purposefully
- Exploring the theme 'Modern Concepts of Peace' during our annual Deeper Life Days
- Hosting our annual Homecoming & Fundraising Dinner which featured an Olympic theme
- Partnering with MCC SK for a 'Global Songs and Sweets' event in February
- Hosting alumni events in Winnipeg and Calgary
- Continuing to develop our cross-curricular, grade-based programs focused on peace (Grade 10 IMAGINE), relationships (Grade 11 THRIVE), and leadership (Grade 12 EXPLORE)
- Partnering with the Rosthern Ministerial to host a community Ash Wednesday service at RJC
- Working with MC SK to initiate a 'Pastor in Residence' program where Kirsten Hamm-Epp visited our campus each Wednesday
- Traveling with students to Saskatoon, Calgary, Oliver, Toronto and Guatemala for our annual Alternative Service and Learning Opportunities week (ALSO Week)
- Helping students with their fundraising efforts during LENTOPOLY where all the money raised went to support our ALSO partners
- Performing *Joseph and Technicolor Dreamcoat* as our yearend musical

These events listed above only serve as highlights from the past year. RJC is a dynamic school community full of energy and life. It is a privilege to work with so many ambitious and gifted students along with dedicated staff members and supporters who keep all of our programs, events, and classes running. Thank you!

Mennonite Mutual Insurance, Alberta



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Mennonite Mutual Insurance is privileged to partner with the Mennonite Church Alberta conference. As we move towards a strategic direction meant to honour our heritage and roots, we look forward to a long and fruitful relationship with MCA.

Why is MMI so focused on partnering with churches? We believe that our founders always intended for our company to "support and strengthen the church". You'll even find that phrase contained in our mission statement. There are several specific ways that we want to continue our involvement with MCA.

1. Last year, we stopped our radio ad campaigns which was costing us about \$30,000.00 a year. In keeping with our new strategic direction, it made sense to us that if we are truly partnering with member churches, then that is where our marketing dollars should go. We love having the opportunity to sponsor special events or programs in churches. For example, one church asked us to help sponsor a youth short term mission to Rwanda. Another church has asked to help sponsor a Lenten Pancake Breakfast. Still another church has asked us to sponsor the hot chocolate at an ice fishing event in February. When people see our logo, we want them to associate MMI with Kingdom values. We look forward to hearing about upcoming events in your church.
2. We have a Compassion Fund that matches donations by member churches up to \$3000.00 per incident. The recipient doesn't even have to attend church. We just want to partner with churches that put into practice "bearing one another's burdens" – regardless of who that might be.
3. Perhaps our most ambitious partnership initiative to date is approval in 2020 by MMI's board of directors to give back 4% of the earned premiums generated by MMI policyholders who attend member churches. This will be accomplished in the form of quarterly donations beginning this first quarter of 2020. There are no strings attached – churches can use these funds in whatever ways they deem best. We just want the privilege of investing a portion of our premium income back into the Kingdom.

How are we able to do this? Well, as you know, MMI has a strong faith-based heritage and a board of directors made up of godly men and women. We make it our business to differentiate ourselves from other insurance companies by *establishing strategic partnership with member churches through liaisons with participating volunteer representatives.*

These volunteer representatives are vital in helping MMI accomplish its vision to "support and strengthen the church." They are our eyes and ears in their local congregations, triggering the compassion fund and advising us of possible ways to support local church activities in addition to providing ministry when a policyholder has a claim. We meet with the volunteer representatives on a quarterly basis and, at MMI's expense, invite these folks to attend our annual convention and AGM as voting delegates which means that your church can truly have a say in the direction of the company.

Mennonite Mutual Insurance is serious about supporting and strengthening the church. Perhaps you have heard the saying, "Membership has its privileges." At MMI, we like to say that "Membership has its PURPOSE." When churches, and those who attend, partner with MMI, their premium dollars count for more than affordable and comprehensive coverage at a competitive price. We all need insurance – and at MMI, your insurance dollars become a potential investment in God's Kingdom!

At year end, Mennonite Church Alberta had 7 MMI member churches and 972 policyholders with a total of \$1,612,861.22 in earned premiums. At 4%, these churches generated \$64,514.45 in 2020. Of course, this number will grow as the members of your congregations hear and understand the mission and vision of MMI and choose to participate. And, with multiple churches in the MCA conference already members of MMI, please reach out to our Commercial Underwriting Manager, Melonie Johnson, about a group discount for your conference. Melonie can be reached at mjohnson@mmiab.ca or telephone number 403-930-7419.

Let us close by saying that if you are currently not insured with MMI, please let us know. The Insurance Advisors at MMI would be happy to give you a phone call and a quote to see if partnering with MMI is right for you.

CALGARY
403-275-6996

LA CRETE
780-928-3711

EDMONTON
780-232-2924

GRANDE PRAIRIE
780-296-4339

LETHBRIDGE
403-942-5577

AMBS SNAPSHOT

FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2018–19



112

Number of students in academic year 2019–20 (including Journey)

- 10 Canadian
- 29 international*
- 60 men
- 52 women

*highest number ever at AMBS



53%

MDiv students studying through MDiv Connect (2019–20)

27 of the 51 students enrolled in the Master of Divinity program are studying at a distance.



57%

Average financial aid and scholarships given to 2019–20 students

Total tuition: \$650,210

Less financial aid (\$371,924)

Net tuition: \$278,286



\$39,202

Savings since lighting project began in 2015

This includes 137,000 kWh saved since AMBS installed Elkhart's largest solar array (50kW) in April 2017.



50+

Species of wildflowers and grasses growing on the AMBS campus

The campus also features 6+ acres of restored native prairie.



2,578

Living AMBS alumni

34% of AMBS alumni are donors.

OUR MISSION

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary 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 VISION

AMBS will become an Anabaptist learning community that makes theological education accessible to and welcoming of Christians of increasingly diverse traditions, ethnicities and races to reflect more fully God's purposes of unity and justice.



20

Graduates in May 2019

Types of degrees

- 12 Master of Divinity
- 4 Master of Arts
- 4 Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies



688

Church Leadership Center participants

- Workshops: 462
- Pastors and Leaders: 143
- Short Courses: 57
- Spiritual Guidance: 9
- Journey program: 17



29

Anabaptist Witness journal authors

From 9 countries: Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Lebanon, Mexico, South Africa, U.S.

Including pastors, mission workers and administrators, university and seminary faculty



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5

Contribution sources

- Individuals: 44%
- Estate gifts: 15%
- Foundations: 33%*
- Congregations: 7%
- Menno organizations: 1%

*includes \$1 million grant from the Lilly Foundation

Mennonite Disaster Service Canada **REPORT**

For many Canadians today, the church is “unnoticed and unimportant.” That’s the view of Gabe and Rachel Warriner, co-pastors of River Valley Community Church in Grand Forks, B.C.

“The church is invisible,” says Gabe. “Nobody knows who we are as Christians. We’re irrelevant to people who drive past our buildings every day.”

But then a natural disaster comes along and—if Christians are paying attention to God’s leading—all that can change.

That’s what happened in Grand Forks following unprecedented flooding in spring 2018 that damaged over 400 homes in the community of 4,200 people. River Valley, a Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada congregation of about 100, responded by helping with sandbagging. But after the water receded, what could they do to help people rebuild their homes and lives?

Then Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) showed up. Working with the church and local officials, we brought in about 200 volunteers to rebuild and repair 15 homes.

The result was a new sense of appreciation for the church in the community, says Rachel.

“People were surprised when they saw the church was stepping up to help. It wasn’t what they expected. They didn’t think that’s what Christians did.” Adds Gabe: “There was a growing awareness of what the church is for. It’s a real plus for the Christian faith in Grand Forks for people to know what it means to be Christian.”

Grand Forks is just one place in Canada where MDS sought to be the hands and feet of Jesus on your behalf in 2019. Other places where we served included Ontario, where we helped people recover from flooding; Manitoba, where we built a house for a widow who lost



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GABE WARRINER, CO-PASTOR,
RIVER VALLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH, GRAND FORKS

her home in a fire; and also in Newfoundland, where we built a house for a family who lost their home in a fire. At the same time, volunteers served in locations in the U.S. in places like Texas, Florida, North and South Carolina, and California.

At the end of the project in Grand Forks, MDS project

co-director Peter Thiessen handed Gabe a “baton”—an old hammer used by volunteers. “We recognize we are only in a community for a season,” Peter said as he gave Gabe the hammer.

“It’s like a relay. We are glad to do what we can to help people rebuild their homes and restore their lives. But we can only take it so far before we leave. Then we hand off the baton to the local church to follow up with the people we served.”

For Gabe and Rachel, it was an important moment. “We’re not going anywhere,” he says. “We plan to stay

engaged with MDS’s clients and our community. We intend to let people know the church is always here, always ready to help them.”

Your continued support for MDS, either as a volunteer or by donations, is greatly appreciated! With your help we can continue to work with local churches to be a witness of God’s generous love for those who have been impacted by natural disasters, and to the communities where we serve.

—Ross Penner, Director of Canadian Operations



Peter Thiessen of MDS passes the “baton” to River Valley Church pastor Gabe Warriner.



**Mennonite
Disaster
Service**

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Mennonite Men



2020 Annual Report to Regional Churches

Mennonite Men is the men's organization of Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada. Our mission: *Engaging men to grow, give and serve as followers of Jesus*. Our two programs, *JoinHands* and *JoinMen*, served this mission in several ways in the last year.

JoinHands: Grants for New Churches

Thanks to generous contributions from individuals and congregations, Mennonite Men has granted over 2 million dollars through its *JoinHands* program to assist new congregations in acquiring their first church building.

In 2019 we extended grants to three Mennonite churches:

\$30,000 to Eden Life International Church in Kansas City, Missouri. This congregation in South Central Mennonite Conference serves four language communities: Amharic (Ethiopia), Anouk (Sudan, Ethiopia), English (second generation immigrants), and Swahili/French (Congo).



\$40,000 to Unity Church of God in Homestead, Florida (pictured to the left). This Haitian Mennonite congregation in Southeast

Conference is active serving their community.

\$40,000 to Centro de Alabanza in Philadelphia, PA (below). This Mennonite congregation in Franconia Conference has a rich diversity of members from Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Puerto Rico, the United States and Venezuela. The church is active with Instituto Biblico Anabautista (Anabaptist Biblical Institute) and engaged in several ministries in their neighborhood.



These racial-ethnic congregations represent a significant growth edge in our Mennonite church. We are grateful to share our resources with these churches and receive their witness of dynamic engagement in mission.

JoinMen: Resources and Retreats for Men

What does Anabaptism have to teach us about healthy masculinity? Our new book, *Peaceful at Heart: Anabaptist Reflections on Healthy Masculinity*, seeks to answer this question. Working with the Institute of Mennonite Studies, this project of Mennonite Men is by and for men, promoting an Anabaptist Christian perspective on masculinity.



Mennonite Men had the opportunity to lead retreats with



men in Shirati, Tanzania (pictured to the left) and Cradock, South Africa (below).

These were rich interchanges, addressing traditional expressions of masculinity and their impacts and what it means to be men following Jesus and serving God's peace.



Join Us: Individual and Congregational Support

Mennonite Men invites contributions to support our projects and grants for church buildings. Please consider how you and your congregations can partner with us.

To learn more, support our work, download resources, or schedule a retreat, visit MennoniteMen.org.

Together in Christ,

Don Neufeld, Canadian Coordinator

