

PERSONAL

Practices

Deepening our Community

Connecting to core commitments
and each other

Pick one personal practice to take up for a year

- Choose someone from your congregation and pray for that person every day
- Intentionally look for God in every person you meet
- Find an “accountability partner” to regularly meet to share joys, intentions, and challenges
- Take time each week to tell one person something you appreciate about them
- Once a week, check out an online worship service/sermon of another congregation
- Read a book on Mennonite-Anabaptist faith
- Attend a faith conference
- Take an online course from CMU or AMBS
- Volunteer at the local Centre for Newcomers
- Visit an MCA congregation with people from a different cultural background
- Invite someone you don’t know well from your congregation over for coffee
- Volunteer at an MCC Sale and greet people you don’t know from other places
- Attend an MCA delegate session
- Serve on an MCA committee
- Volunteer to serve a meal to the homeless
- Volunteer to help with highway/road cleanup



COMMITTEES

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Pick one practice for your committee, or small group, to take up for a year

- Begin each meeting by inviting each person to share how they are doing; follow each person’s sharing by praying for that person
- Begin each meeting with reading a chapter from a book such as Anabaptist Essentials or other from the [CommonWord](#) resource list
- Develop a statement that could be read by all committees/small groups
- Pair with another committee and share challenges your committee faces, and pray for that committee and its work as it prays for yours
- Review your existing work. How is it deepening connections?
- Think of ways to be pro-active in affirming core beliefs and deep community



CONGREGATIONS

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Pick one practice for your congregation to take up for a year

- Pair with another congregation to set up “prayer pals” between members
- Pray for one other congregation each worship service or meeting
- Plan ways for people to share about themselves (stories, hobbies, history) via newsletters or on Sunday morning
- Organize an annual “guess who’s coming ” in home gathering matching people who would not normally socialize
- Invite people from other MCA congregations to speak at your church
- Organize a retreat based on the E3 theme and seeing the light of Christ in everyone
 - Plan a Portable CMU study event, and invite other churches to join you.
 - Plan a sermon series around “deep community”, core beliefs, and the longings of our time
 - Plan a worship service with team or paired participation (worship leaders, responsive readings, even children’s feature), giving more opportunities for participation and mentorship
- Encourage a safe space for openness and vulnerability in group conversations. Create a community covenant to give guidance and nurture commitment to safety in sharing.



**Mennonite
Church
Alberta**

MENNONITE CHURCH ALBERTA

Practices

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Pick one practice for your committee to take up for a year

- Encourage congregations to share their stories in the Communiqué
- Start up an online MCA Book Club
- Set up pulpit exchanges between congregations
- Pair congregations to help with setting up intentional relationships (pen pals, shared youth activities, joint worship)
- Expand on Pastors and Women’s Retreats by offering other opportunities for groups to get together
- Gather congregations for joint worship
- Set up a sermon series focussing on one fruit of the spirit per week/month
- Take a friend to a nearby pow-wow
- Participate, as a group, in Faith and Life study weekends.
- Have congregations share briefly and have another congregation pray for them at assembly
- Schedule regular/monthly MCA zoom “visits”/fun activities or gatherings (eg. games night online, book discussion, social times, or topic based)
- Develop a book list for churches to access that deal with core commitments and relationships
- Develop a sermon series list for pastors/congregations, including highlighting materials from CommonWord, Leader Magazine, and other resources