



November 23, 2021

As fall gives way to winter and Advent once again draws nigh, we are reminded of how God entered our world through Jesus Christ. Through Jesus, God invites each of us into relationship and calls us together as a community of faith. As a connected people we draw on each other's strengths as we explore faith, pray

Connections are at the heart of what **Mennonite Church Alberta** is all about!

together, become renewed in in spirit, and share the gifts we have been given.

As Executive Minister of MCA I have been blessed by opportunities to connect in many different ways:

- On March 21 an MCA-wide zoom worship service was attended by 400 people.
- Ongoing online meetings with pastors, and special meetings for church moderators, church administrators, and church treasurers have provided important opportunities for prayerful support.
- This fall the easing of pandemic restrictions has provided opportunities to be physically present with congregations and ministry leadership groups. After 20 months of zoom connections it has been a joy to be together with others for worship and ministry meetings.

Encountering, Embracing, Embodying Christ in Community

Our connection to each other is the emphasis behind MCA's theme for 2021, **"Encountering, Embracing, Embodying Christ in Community."** While the COVID-19 pandemic has made it more difficult to be together in person, there are many ways we continue to connect through worship and the ministries we share:

In September MCA welcomed **Steven Giugovaz** as Church Engagement Minister. This new position will focus on connecting MCA congregations with each other and with the ministries we share. Steven has already begun connecting with congregations, pastors, ministry leaders, and Witness Support Networks.



After the retirement of Donna Entz, the interfaith relationship-building of the North Edmonton Ministry continues under Interim Director **Suzanne Gross**. This Christ-centred ministry brings people together through witness, peace-building, hospitality, and dialogue.



The forests of **Camp Valaqua** this past summer featured songs and laughter as campers were welcomed back at 2/3 capacity. Camp continues to be a powerful place for children, youth, and young adults to experience God in community and grow in faith. The main camp facility and yurts are available for year-round rentals, providing ideal settings for groups to connect.



MCA continues to build the church around the world through MC Canada International Witness. Two Witness Worker couples have special connection to MCA congregations:



Werner and Joanne De Jong from Holyrood have been called to teach at the Meserete Kristos Seminary in Ethiopia. They plan to leave in time for the January semester.

Dan and Christine Poovong from Trinity continue to build the church in Thailand and Laos as they provide resources and training for church leaders.



Thank you for being a part of Mennonite Church Alberta. Your donation to the general fund or to specific ministries is valued as we join together in the work that God is doing through us.

More information about these and other ministries we share can be found at www.mcab.ca.

Thank you for being part of our MCA Family! I am grateful for the ways you connect, and in doing so make these ministries and so much more possible!

Tim Wiebe-Neufeld
Mennonite Church Alberta Executive Minister

To donate online: www.mcab.ca/giving
Or by mail: Box 1839, Pincher Creek, AB T0K 1W0

