



Executive Committee Brenda Tiessen-Wiens *Moderator* Peter Sang *Vice-Moderator*
Wayne Janz *Finance* Elizabeth Wall *Secretary* Tim Wiebe-Neufeld *Executive Minister*

MCA is...

- **12** congregations worshipping in 5 languages
- **900** members and **1300** church participants
- **22** pastors, credentialed leaders, and year-round ministry staff
- **5** regions in covenant as MC Canada, our nationwide family of **225** congregations
- part of Mennonite World Conference, which includes **109** national churches from **59** countries

MCA's Vision is...

"...to be a community of Anabaptist-Mennonite congregations worshipping the one holy and loving God. Joined together in Jesus Christ, we are guided by the Holy Spirit and scripture as we seek to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace. Together we seek to embody Jesus Christ in the world."

MCA Constitution

Reflections on an amazing year!

The headline read, "So long, 2022, let us hope 2023 will be better."

Every New Year's it's the same thing: newspapers, comic pages, and blog posts emphasize the negative as they reflect on the year that was. Lists of the year's top news events are filled with stories of disaster. New Year's resolutions focus thoughts on our personal inadequacies. The turning of the calendar is seen as turning toward a future that couldn't possibly be as bad as what we just went through. It is such a pattern that on January 3rd a satirical news website offered that Canadians were already giving up on 2023, choosing to pin their hopes on 2024 instead!

As I reflect back on 2022 I see many aspects that were difficult and challenging. But **I also see so many positives – so many ways God's spirit of healing and hope was present in the world in real and tangible ways:**

- The ebbing of the COVID pandemic allowed MCA's congregations to reconnect as communities in ways that had not been possible for nearly two years. A highlight for me was the in-person **Gathering** of our Mennonite Church Canada faith family in Edmonton this past summer.
- The **calling of pastoral leadership** for Foothills, Holyrood, Bethel, and First Mennonite Edmonton; the calling of volunteers and staff both young and old to the ministry at Camp Valaqua; and the calling of many others in service of congregations and the broader ministries we share.
- The living out of the 3rd year of MCA's action plan: **Encountering, Embracing, Embodying Christ in the World**. As congregations reconnect and reset, many are looking for ways to be more present in their local communities. Globally, International Witness continues to build the church in 15 countries. This includes pastor supports and training in Thailand and Ethiopia. MCA is also funding pastor training for 2 church leaders from South Sudanese refugee camps.
- Seeing efforts made towards peace and wholeness of relationship in a world torn by division, injustice, and environmental destruction. **MCA's Bridge Building Facilitator** is nurturing intercultural and interfaith relationships, while our nationwide church has invested in staff to assist in caring for creation and building relationships with Indigenous people.



Encountering,
Embracing,
Embodying Christ
in the world



As people of faith we long for a future when God's healing and restoration will be made real for all creation. Yet that hope is built on the way we have seen God at work in the past, even through times of hardship and challenge. We see hope shining through in the highs and lows of the biblical story, we see it in the history of the church and MCA congregations, and we see it in our lives in so many ways--even in the year that was.

Throughout all that recent years has brought, the ministries we share as MCA have continued to build the church. As we look back, may we recognize the many ways God has been with us, even as we anticipate God's presence in the future to come. And may we look forward to God's provision, creativity, and inspiration as we seek to be the People God is calling us to be!



Tim Wiebe-Neufeld, *Executive Minister, MCA*



Pastors Council Retreat November 2022

MCA Priorities are...

Supporting Congregations

- **5** new pastors called to serve in 4 congregations
- **4** pastors newly credentialed
- **1** congregation provided financing for an interim pastor team
- **8** students received bursaries for Canadian Mennonite University
- over **30,000** resources accessed through CommonWord
- **4** in-person and **3** zoom meetings of Pastors Council
- **1** Pastor's Council Retreat at Camp Valaqua
- **1** Spiritual Leaders Day at the MC Canada Gathering



Nurturing Connections

- **446** MCA households received the Canadian Mennonite nationwide magazine
- **207** received the weekly newsletter the MCA Communique
- **225** attended MC Canada's Gathering in Edmonton and **50+** attended online.
- **133** youth, volunteers and staff attended Amplify at Camp Valaqua
- **2** MCA young adults took part in the Youth Leaders Experience at Gathering
- **82** attended the MCA delegate sessions in March, while hundreds attended the Sunday worship
- **1** young adult sponsored to attend the Global Youth Summit and MWC Assembly in Indonesia

Celebrating Faith in Action

- near capacity summer camps at **Camp Valaqua**, and **over 1500** people served through year-round rentals
- Suzanne Gross hired as the new Bridge Building Facilitator, to nurture interfaith and intercultural connections
- nationwide programs focused on Indigenous Relations and Climate Action
- International Witness relationships in **15** countries, with huge impact including:
 - Ethiopia, where Werner DeJong taught **150** students at Meserete Kristos Seminary and Joanne preached in chapels and offered community support
 - South Sudanese refugee camps, where **2** church leaders received support to attend MKS to train as pastors for their home communities
 - Thailand, where Tom and Christine Poovong lead **43** worshipping groups and **60** outreach centres