



**Mennonite
Church**
Eastern Canada

Courageous Imagination

Join us for a journey!

See, I am doing a new thing!
Do you not perceive it?
I am making a way Isaiah 43:19

MCEC 34th Annual Church Gathering
April 23 & 24, 2021
Online Video Conference

Content

Annual Church Gathering Information	
Great is the Faithfulness.....	3
Courageous Imagination	4
Session Schedule.....	5
Discernment Documents	
Motions	6
Minutes - 2020 Annual Church Gathering	7
Executive Council Actions	13
Executive Council Members	15
Slate of Volunteers	16
Congregation Milestones.....	19
Congregation Transitions.....	20
Financials	
Balance Sheet and Operations Statement	22
Restricted Funds	26
Spending Plan/Budget.....	27
Legacy Initiatives Fund	30
Pastoral Highlights	
Ministry Transitions.....	31
Pastor Introductions.....	33
Year in Review	
MCEC Staff.....	36
MCEC Volunteers	38
MC Canada	39
MC Manitoba	43
MC Saskatchewan.....	45
MC Alberta.....	46
MC British Columbia.....	48

Great is thy Faithfulness



Arli Klassen
MCEC Moderator

“*Great is thy faithfulness*” was my grandparents’ favorite hymn, who came to Canada as teenage refugees in the late 1920s. They fled violence in what was then south Russia, and began married life as farmers in the Dirty Thirties.

We too have lived through a very hard year in 2020, a year unlike anything we have known or experienced before. I see God’s faithfulness in our MCEC family.

It is wonderful to see how congregations pivoted to find new and creative ways to continue being the Body of Christ on earth: online worship, telephone trees, small groups, reaching out to those around us who have practical needs. I know it has been stressful, particularly for pastors doing new things every week. As Christ’s Body we are faithful in figuring things out. And God is faithful.

It has been a year with a few significant staff transitions in MCEC staff. David Martin retired after 15 years of leadership. Leah Reesor-Keller accepted our invitation to become our new Executive Minister. Fanosie Legesse accepted our invitation to become our Intercultural Mission Minister. Both of them began formally and informally in their roles just as the pandemic restrictions settled in. They are faithful in responding to these calls to lead and serve. And God is faithful.

In Deuteronomy 31:6 we hear the encouragement: “Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread (of them), because it is the Lord your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you.” I know we have all struggled with fear in this last year. I am encouraged that we were faithful in following Jesus through those fears, as congregations and as an MCEC community. God is faithful.

Arli Klassen
MCEC Moderator

Courageous Imagination

*“See, I am doing a new thing! Do you not perceive it?
I am making a way”
- Isaiah 43:19*

As I start off my ministry with AMCEC, I've been delving into the theme of courageous imagination. In this time of uncertainty within the church and globally, I believe we need to grow our capacity to dream and imagine a way forward, seeking after God. In this time, faith calls us to look with courage to see where God is already at work, making a way despite the challenges. Where do you see God at work in your family, in your community, in your congregation? This has been a hard year, and there are significant challenges still ahead locally and globally. Yet even now, especially now, following Jesus calls us to be salt for the earth, and a city on a hill, to quote from the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:13-16.

Perhaps your congregation is exploring new ways to connect with the community around you as part of a ReLearning Community cohort.

Maybe you are a pastor beginning your ministry, drawing on mentorship and peer support from the Transitioning into Ministry program to help you infuse fresh perspectives and energy into your new congregation.

You might be church council members looking at your structure and pastoral needs, prayerfully considering what changes may be needed to support the well-being of your congregation and its witness.

Where is God calling you? What are new ways of being salt and light in your community at this time? I pray that God will grant us courage and faith on this journey together as an MCEC community, seeking to follow Jesus and live into God's Shalom.



Leah Reesor-Keller
MCEC Executive Minister

Session Schedule

Courageous Imagination: Join us for a Journey

“Who are we together? What is the church that we are becoming?”

Our gathering has three parts this year. We invite you to register for the complete weekend but you can also register for one or two of the times if you are unable to attend all three. Delegates should attend all three sessions as voting decisions will be in each.

Courageous Journey Following God Together

Friday, April, 23, 2021 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Who Are We Together?

Kimchi with Pablo Kim

Saturday, April 24, 2021 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Following Jesus Together While Having Different Beliefs

The Journey Forward

Saturday, April 24, 2021 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

What is the Church That We Are Becoming?

Motions



MCEC

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MOTIONS

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FYE JANUARY 31, 2021

That we accept the audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2021 as printed.

APPROVAL OF AUDITORS

That we appoint PricewaterhouseCoopers as auditors for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2022.

MINUTES OF 2020 ANNUAL CHURCH GATHERING

That we accept the minutes of the 33rd annual meeting of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, held April 25, 2020.

APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ACTIONS

That we approve all actions taken by the MCEC Executive Council for the year May 2020 to April 2021.

APPROVAL OF MCEC SPENDING PLAN FOR 2021-2022

That we accept the 2021 - 2022 spending plan as printed

APPROVAL OF SLATE

That we accept the 2021 - 2022 slate as presented.



MCEC

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Minutes of MCEC's 33rd Annual Church Gathering
Videoconference
Saturday, April 25, 2020
10:30 am

1. Welcome

Arli Klassen, Moderator, opened the meeting with words of welcome. She introduced special guests from the Mennonite Church Canada nationwide community of congregations: Doug Klassen, Mennonite Church Canada Executive Minister and Garry Janzen, Mennonite Church British Columbia Executive Minister. Arli also recognized a number of other guests who were present from partner/affiliated organizations.

2. Meeting Instructions

MCEC planned an online meeting because of the impact of COVID-19. Arli explained that an online meeting was a new experience for an MCEC annual meeting and asked for patience with any technical glitches and the limitations of this meeting format.

3. Purpose of this Meeting

The purpose of this meeting was to address the basic business items that are required at annual meetings for not-for-profit organizations.

Arli announced that the gathering has officially met quorum with a total of 185 people registered, representing 82 of our 100 member congregations.

MCEC is planning a full day of table conversations on Saturday, November 14, 2020.

4. Opening worship

Bryan Moyer Suderman led opening worship.

5. MCEC Ministry Update

Executive Minister, David Martin, gave a brief MCEC Ministry update. We are one body, even when we do church differently and meet online. God is with us even in this pandemic. It is fantastic to see how pastors and congregations have adapted so quickly. All MCEC staff are working remotely from home. There are updates on the MCEC website with many resources, and our ministry continues online. We are trying hard to stay connected as one body nationwide.

6. Checking in with the MCEC Community of Congregations

Participants were divided into break out rooms of four or five people to share how they continue to worship, pray, and connect within their congregations during this pandemic.

Minutes

7. Mennonite Church Canada Greeting – Doug Klassen

Doug Klassen, Executive Minister for Mennonite Church Canada, thanked MCEC for what it brings to Mennonite Church Canada. It is also good to meet newer congregations in MCEC. We see a group of deeply dedicated people strengthening the entire church body, not bounded by geography.

Mennonite Church Canada works in three main areas: CommonWord resources, Indigenous-Settler Relations, and International Witness. We are thankful for the contributions and work that comes from MCEC. Mennonite Church Canada study conference scheduled at Steinmann Mennonite Church this fall has changed to a virtual gathering. We will be talking about what it means to be the church.

8. MCEC Milestones

a. Congregational Milestones

- i. Bethel Ethiopian Evangelical Church – 10th anniversary
- ii. Shalom Worship and Healing Centre - 10th anniversary
- iii. Hunta Mennonite Church - 50th anniversary
- iv. St Catharines United Mennonite Church – 75th anniversary

b. Partner Milestones

- i. Rockway Mennonite Collegiate - 75th anniversary
- ii. Mennonite Central Committee - 100th anniversary
- iii. Women of MCEC ended on December 31 2019 – MCEC recognized the many years Women of MCEC served women in MCEC congregations. Although the formal women's organization has ended, women will continue informally connecting through a new working group.

c. Congregations Withdrawing Membership in MCEC

Six congregations withdrew their membership in MCEC over the past year. MCEC was in facilitated conversations with each congregation to explore differences. In all cases, they have agreed to bless and pray for each other even though membership affiliations were changing.

Calvary Church Ayr, Kingsfield Zurich and Clinton Mennonite Church, Living Water Community Christian Fellowship, Maple View Mennonite Church, Milverton Mennonite Fellowship, and River of Life Fellowship.

Participants recited a litany of release to bring closure to these relationships.

d. Staff Transitions

- i. Fanosie Legesse, Intercultural Mission Minister, began his ministry on March 1 2020
- ii. David Martin, Executive Minister, is retiring in the summer. A celebration of his ministry is planned
- iii. Leah Reesor-Keller has been appointed as the new Executive Minister
- iv. Michel Monette, Catalyzer Minister, began his ministry on August 1, 2019.

e. New Congregations

- i. Full Membership status:
 - o Grace New Life Mennonite Church, Hamilton ON
- ii. Provisional Membership status:
 - o Goshen Mennonite Church, Ottawa ON
 - o Mennonite Disciple Mission (MDM) Joliette, Joliette QC
 - o Soul House, Toronto ON
 - o Warden Underground, Toronto ON

Motion - The MCEC Executive Council moved and seconded the motion *to accept Grace New Life Mennonite Church as a Full Member congregation in MCEC and that we accept Goshen Mennonite Church, MDM Joliette, Soul House and Warden Underground as Provisional Member congregations in MCEC.* Carried.

93 votes cast: 98% voted in favour

9. Greetings from Mennonite Church British Columbia (MCBC)

Each year, Executive Ministers from Regional Churches attend the annual meetings of other Regional Churches in Mennonite Church Canada. This year, many of these visits are virtual ones. In March, David Martin joined the online annual meeting for Mennonite Church Alberta. MCEC welcomed Garry Janzen, Executive Minister of MCBC. He brought greetings from 29 congregations in MCBC.

A new moderator has been writing weekly newsletters in this pandemic time. Pastors are meeting weekly in two groups on Zoom sharing resources and supporting each other. Being a community is very important, and they appreciate the nationwide worship services prepared by each region. MCBC had an annual gathering on February 29. Garry highlighted that six congregations receive revitalizing support from MCBC. A new Vietnamese congregation joined the annual meeting.

Garry expressed deep appreciation and thanks for David's leadership, dedication and effort to make a nationwide church.

10. Adoption of Minutes of the 2019 ACG

The MCEC Executive Council moved and seconded the motion *to accept the minutes of the 32nd annual meeting of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, held April 26 - 27, 2019.* Carried.

94 votes cast: 96% voted in favour

11. Accepting the Executive Council Actions for 2019 – 2020

The MCEC Executive Council moved and seconded the motion to approve all actions taken by the MCEC Executive Council for the year May 2019 to April 2020. Carried

91 votes cast: 85 voted in favour, 2 voted against, 4 abstained

12. Financial Agenda

- a. **2019 – 2020 Financial Statements** - Sean East, Financial Manager, presented the audited statements from the year that closed February 28, 2020. The Auditors, PriceWaterhouseCoopers, did not see any issues during their audit.

Minutes

The year ended in a deficit, largely due to a shortfall of congregational giving. MCEC is grateful to congregations for giving what they could and for the continued confidence they show for the work that MCEC is doing.

MCEC was able to meet budget regarding giving to partners, such as camps and schools. International Witness giving is passed on to Mennonite Church Canada to support the worker(s) to whom the income was designated. MCEC has been able to maintain support to the nationwide church and to the international ministry they support.

Overall, spending for internal ministry programs was \$31,000 less than what was budgeted. Some items that deviated from budget:

- Higher than budgeted expenses for delegates travelling to the Mennonite Church Canada gathering in British Columbia
- Leadership resourcing had a higher than budgeted loss when they invested in workshops like Healthy Boundaries in the Context of Ministry
- Generally less spending in the mission budget across a number of categories
- Congregational resourcing reflected a higher than budgeted loss on youth and junior youth events due to lower registration than in past years

The 2019-2020 budget was balanced by a draw of \$40,933 from the Faithful Steward Fund, at the discretion of the Executive Council.

The Executive Council moved and seconded the motion to accept the audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2020 as printed. Carried.

94 votes cast: 92 voted in favour, 2 abstained

- b. **2021 Budget/Spending Plan** – Sean East informed delegates that the spending plan was developed over a number of months prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. The new reality is unpredictable, and to deviate from something that had much thought and discussion, did not seem wise.

Sean presented the 2021 budget with a similar pattern of spending from last year.

Revenue for the coming year was budgeted at \$2,337,916, a slight increase from the previous year

- Over the course of the Legacy Initiatives Fund (LiF), a lot of staff time from the operating budget was expended supervising, participating in, dreaming with and working with all of the proposals, especially the larger ones that were paid for by legacy fund dollars. No revenue was reflected in the operating budget to recognize the staff time spent on those initiatives. The interest that the Legacy Initiatives Fund is earning on its principle investment will now be transferred as income to the operating budget.
- Staff position was filled by Fanosie Legesse
- Anabaptist Learning Workshops will be returned to MCEC from Conrad Grebel University College

The budget presented had a net deficit of \$162,595 which is offset by the allowed 15% draw from the Faithful Steward Fund to balance the budget.

Sean assured congregations that are not receiving donations as usual because of the pandemic that their congregational ministries and staff are the priority. MCEC expects to receive less funding from congregations this coming year but encouraged congregations to inform MCEC of their funding pattern so adjustments can be made in the budget.

The MCEC Executive Council moved and seconded the motion to accept the 2020 - 2021 spending plan as printed. Carried.

90 votes cast: 85 voted in favour, 3 voted against, 2 abstained

Legacy Initiatives Fund Update - A LiF update was available on line for review. Delegates were invited to contact Executive Council, staff or Finance Council members with questions. The Executive Council is striking a Legacy Initiatives Fund Advisory Committee to review the status of the fund. More information will be available in the future.

- c. **Approval of Auditors** - *The MCEC Executive Council moved and seconded the motion to appoint PricewaterhouseCoopers as auditors for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2021. Carried.*

89 votes cast: 88 voted in favour, 1 voted against

13. Youth Dream Team Report

A report and video update was posted online for delegates to review in advance. MCEC Executive Council has mandated the development of a LiF proposal for a position to catalyze faith formation for youth and young adults. More will be shared at the fall gathering.

14. Approval of Volunteer Slate

Gladys Bender, Chair of Gift Discernment Committee, introduced the slate. Gladys thanked the Gift Discernment Committee for their work to fill vacancies on the slate.

The MCEC Gift Discernment Committee moved and seconded the motion "That we accept the 2020 - 2021 slate as presented." Carried

84 votes cast: 82 voted in favour, 2 abstained

15. Introduction of New Executive Minister

Arli introduced Leah Reesor-Keller as MCEC's new Executive Minister. Arli offered thanks and appreciation to the search committee and to those who offered input in the focus groups. The search committee heard from 100 people on how to think of MCEC in the future. The conversation will be picked up in the fall. Members of the search committee were

Arli Klassen, Chair

Alissa Bender, representing the Leadership Council

Yoel Masyawong, representing the Mission Coouncil

J D Penner, representing the Executive Council

Jason Yuen, Constituent

The candidate was recommended to and unanimously received by the Executive Council. Leah will begin as Executive Minister at the end of summer. An installation service for Leah will be held at the MCEC fall gathering.

Minutes

Leah Reesor-Keller gave a brief greeting.

16. Closing Words and Worship

Arli made final comments and ended with a prayer.

Adjourned 12:40



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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ACTIONS MAY 2020 – MARCH 2021

ACTIONS OF MARCH 16, 2021

- Approved minutes of January 19, 2020 meeting
- On the recommendation of the Finance Council, adopted the Audited Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2021 as printed, for delegate approval at the 2021 Annual Church Gathering
- Approved Finance Council's recommendation to appoint PricewaterhouseCoopers as Auditors for Fiscal Year 2022
- Adopted the 2021 Spending Plan for delegate approval at Annual Church Gathering
- Affirmed budget for Courageous Imagination with increased contingency
- Approved an exceptional loan to Conrad Grebel of \$500,000 for 2.5 years, beginning June 15 2021, from the Legacy Initiatives Fund
- Approved provisional membership for Hiyawa Amalak and Ma Destinée congregations
- Adopted the 2021 - 2022 slate for delegate approval at the 2021 Annual Church Gathering

ACTIONS OF JANUARY 19, 2021

- Approved minutes from November 17, 2020 meeting
- Directed Hochma to manage the Église évangélique mennonite de Joliette property on behalf of MCEC, giving them access to all bank accounts, accounts related to utilities and the ability to enter contracts for leases and services
- Affirmed the outline and budget for the strategic plan project

ACTIONS OF NOVEMBER 17, 2020

- Approved minutes of September 22, 2020
- Approved granting signing authority for day-to-day operations of MCEC that bind the corporation for cheque signing to be given to the Executive Minister, Operations and Church Engagement Minister and Financial Manager, and for contracts to be given to the Executive Minister and Operations and Church Engagement Minister
- Approved inviting Darlene Gingerich, Steinmann Mennonite Church, to serve another term on the Gift Discernment Committee
- Approved reducing finance council members from six to five

Executive Council Actions

- Approved keeping the Vision: Healing & Hope statement that is currently part of MCEC's Statement of Identity & Purpose and part of the Mennonite Church Canada Covenant, and update mission, values and strategic priorities to reflect where MCEC is called now
- Approved removal of provisional membership for Goshen Mennonite Church

ACTIONS OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

- Approved minutes of June 16, 2020
- Granted Leah Reesor-Keller signing authority and full access to all accounts and holdings of MCEC with Kindred Credit Union
- Authorized cancellation of the MCEC credit card in David Martin's name and issued a new card in Leah Reesor-Keller's name
- Approved Edna Bejarano to serve on the Silver Lake Mennonite Camp Board
- Appointed Kerry Musselman to serve on the Detweiller Meeting House Board

ACTIONS OF JUNE 16, 2020

- Approved the minutes of the May 19, 2020 meeting
- Approved funds from the Legacy Initiatives Fund for one or more part-time interim roles to support MCEC youth ministry from September 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021
- Approved a resolution to appoint Marvin Friesen, Elsie Goertzen and Karen Huehn to an Appeal Panel to hear from an appellant regarding a finding of ministerial misconduct and ministerial sexual misconduct by a pastor credentialed by MCEC
- Approved the *Canadian Mennonite* covenant, in principle, if their concerns are relayed to the Joint Council
- Affirmed David Martin's transition reflections from the past 15 years

ACTIONS OF MAY 19, 2020

- Approved the minutes of the March 17, 2020 meeting
- Approved the online executive council vote to temporarily extend the term of Jessica Reesor Rempel on leadership council
- Following the direction from West Hills Mennonite Fellowship, MCEC will provide pastoral support for the congregation and, if requested, explore with them possible areas of additional support

Executive Council Members



Arli Klassen
Moderator
First Mennonite Church



Ernie Harris
Secretary
Nairn Mennonite Church



Brian Quan
Assistant Moderator
Toronto Chinese Mennonite
Church



Diane Lichti
Council Member
Tavistock Mennonite Church



Maciel Arias
Council Member
Toronto New Life Mennonite
Church



J.D. Penner
Council Member
Toronto United Mennonite Church



Suzanne Bender
Council Member
Steinmann Mennonite Church



Richard Steinmann
Council Member
Steinmann Mennonite Church



Steph Chandler Burns
Council Member
Erb Street Mennonite Church



Leah Reesor-Keller
Executive Minister
Ex officio



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MCEC SLATE 2021 - 2022

MCEC COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES

Executive Council

22-0	Anthony Siegrist	Ottawa
22-1	Stephanie Chandler Burns (Leave of Absence)	Erb Street
22-2	Arli Klassen Moderator	First (Kitchener)
22-2	Suzanne Bender	Steinmann
23-1	Diane Lichti	Tavistock
23-1	Richard Steinmann AFSC Rep	Steinmann
23-2	J D Penner	Toronto United
24-1	Jason Yuen	Toronto Chinese
24-1	Felipe Gonzalía	First (Kitchener)

Leah Reesor-Keller, Ex-officio, MCEC Executive Minister

Finance Council

22-1	Michael Steinmann	The Gathering
22-1	Peter Janzen	Niagara
22-1	Karen Heese	Hagerman
23-1	Richard Steinmann	Steinmann
24-2	Robert Tiessen Chair	Toronto

Brent Charette, Ex-officio, MCEC Operations and Church Engagement Minister

Leah Reesor-Keller, Ex-officio, MCEC Executive Minister

Leadership Council

22-1	Chung Vang	First Hmong
22-2	Louise Wideman	Vineland
22-2	Richard Ratzlaff Chair	Toronto United
23-1	Jen Helmuth	Erb Street
23-2	Karen Sheil	Harrow
24-2	Ben Cassels	Waterloo-Kitchener
24-2	Alissa Bender	Hamilton

Marilyn Rudy-Froese, Ex-officio, MCEC Area Church Minister

Mission Council

22-1	Andie Myriam Joseph	Famille Assemblée de la Grâce
22-1	Kara Carter	Wellesley
23-1	Joseph Raltong	Chin
23-1	Visanou Saythavy	Grace New Life
23-2	Rebecca Riek	First (Kitchener)
24-1	Vic Ratzlaff	Westview
24-2	Judith McCartney	Soul House

Norm Dyck, Ex-officio, MCEC Mission Minister

22, 23, 24 is the year the term is complete (ie. 24-1 = individual's first term ends April 30, 2024)

0, 1, 2, 3 is the term the person is serving (year-0 indicates a mid-term replacement)

Individuals in bold have agreed to serve an initial or subsequent term

Gift Discernment

Appointed by Executive Council, Accountable to Executive Council

24-1	Darlene Gingerich	Steinmann
22-0	Charleen Jongejan Harder	North Leamington
22-1	Jonathan Brubacher	Elmira
22-2	Peter Janzen	Niagara
23-2	Gladys Bender	Steinmann
	Chair	
	<i>Leah Reesor-Keller, Ex-officio, MCEC Executive Minister</i>	

MCEC REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Canadian Multifaith Federation (CMF) Board

23-1	Judith Stamp	Toronto United
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Conrad Grebel University College Board (3 consecutive 3 year terms)

22-1	Roger Kehl	First (Kitchener)
22-1	Donny Cheung	Toronto United
22-2	Cate Falconer	Hagerman
22-2	Andrew Roth	Erb Street
23-3	Carol Ringer	Toronto UMC
23-1	Louise Wideman	Vineland
24-2	Morgan Grainger	The Gathering
24-3	Jim Tiessen	Hamilton
24-3	Paul Fieguth	Waterloo North

Detweiler Meeting House Board

22-0	Karey Musselman	Rockway
23-1	Roy Scheerer	Wellesley

Mennonite Central Committee Ontario Board

22-1	Keith Regehr	First (Kitchener)
24-1	Bruce Yoder	Listowel

Mennonite Publishing Services Board

22-0	Karen Heese	Hagerman
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Ontario Mennonite Music Camp Board

22-1	Sara Fretz	Stirling Ave
22-1	Melinda Metzger	St Jacobs
24-1	Kendall Jongejan Harder	North Leamington

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Individuals in bold have agreed to serve an initial or subsequent term

Rockway Mennonite Collegiate Board		
Term begins in November		
22-1	Mark Diller Harder	St Jacobs
23-1	Elizabeth Klassen	Rockway
24-1	Tim Hedrick	Waterloo North
Silver Lake Mennonite Camp Board		
22-0	Edna Bejarano	Toronto
United Mennonite Educational Institute Board		
Term begins in November		
22-1	Caroline Hamm	NLUMC
Warden Woods Community Centre Board		
22-0		
22-0		
Mennonite Church Canada Assembly Delegates – 26 regional church delegates		
Mennonite Church Canada Joint Council		
	Arli Klassen	MCEC Moderator
24-2	Ly Vang	MCEC Constituency Rep
		First Hmong
Mennonite Church Canada Nominating Committee Appointee		
22-1	Gladys Bender	Steinmann

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0, 1, 2, 3 is the term the person is serving (year-0 indicates a mid-term replacement)
Individuals in bold have agreed to serve an initial or subsequent term

Congregation Milestones

Famille Assemblée de la Grâce – 10 years

This small congregation in the Anjou neighbourhood of Montreal, QC has been an MCEC provisional congregation since 2018. They worship in the Haitian Creole language, with an emphasis on the Haitian diaspora in Quebec. Most recently, they connect virtually and worship with people from the United States, Aruba and Dominican Republic. “The church is not [only] the congregation in Anjou, Quebec, but is every individual,” says Pastor Westerne Joseph in a recent report. “We are now able to connect with our brothers and sisters all over the world through Zoom.”

Along with an international focus, they continue to support their youth program and young leaders, as well as the people and refugees in their congregation in Montreal. “Pray for us that God would continue to open doors for the social programs that we have,” requests Pastor Westerne.

We celebrate and are grateful for 10 years of ministry in Anjou, QC.

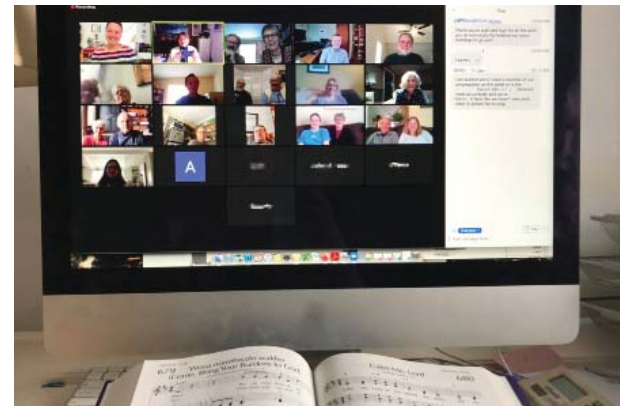


Community Mennonite Church, Stouffville – 25 years

Community Mennonite Church in Stouffville, ON, began in 1996 as an outreach from the Hagerman Mennonite Church, after people developed a vision to start a new church in the town of Stouffville, ON. Their mission statement: “To be a growing Christian community seeking to love God and God’s creation, our neighbours and ourselves,” continues to guide them in congregational and community life.

They are described on their website as a little church in Stouffville that gathers to worship, learn to love God and their neighbours and to “be a church” in all kinds of ways that they are still discovering. The congregation is the home of several of the founding members of the drama troupe, Theatre of the Beat, who have addressed numerous contemporary issues in their projects, and have toured extensively through Mennonite Church Canada. Community Mennonite Church members were central to erecting a plaque honoring the Town of Stouffville’s founding pacifists who settled the local area prior to the War of 1812.

We celebrate and are grateful for 25 years of ministry in Stouffville, ON.



Congregation Transitions

New Congregations Join - Provisional Membership

Hiyaw Amalak, Ottawa

Hiyaw Amalak (Living God) is a congregation of Eritrean and Ethiopian immigrants who began meeting as a congregation more than eight years ago. The congregation has a vision to reach the Tigrinya-speaking population of Ottawa as well as a larger call of being the presence of Jesus for all the citizens of Ottawa. The Eritrean diaspora community in and around Ottawa is greater than 8,000.

While the congregation worships in Tigrinya, they have intentionally moved their youth and children's ministries into English. The congregation of about 50 is led by Pastors Fitsum Debesay and Habte Araya.

Their connection with MCEC began through their relationship with MCEC Pastors Getachew Woldeyes (Church of the Living Word, Ottawa) and Jonathan Abraham (Shalom Worship & Healing Centre, Kitchener).

Hiyaw Amalak has joined MCEC as a congregation with provisional membership.

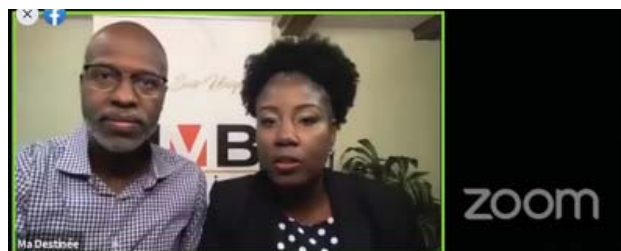


Ma Destinée, Montréal

Ma Destinée is a congregation of new believers and recent Haitian immigrants who began renting space for worship at Hochma, Montréal in 2018. Led by the dynamic pastoral couple of Rheau Jean-Claude & Marjory Brutus, the congregation has a vision to be a beacon of hope for their wider community.

A small congregation of approximately 25 individuals, they have seen an increase in attendance during the pandemic as community members reach out for connection online.

The congregation has an active prayer and Bible study ministry, run children's day camps in the summer, and assist a children's ministry in Haiti. Marjory & Rheau run MMB Coaching, a Christocentric multidisciplinary teaching center, which they see as both business and ministry. Their coaching ministry focuses on couples, young adults and children. Ma Destinée has joined MCEC as a congregation with provisional membership.



Congregation Transitions



Congregations Closing

The Commons, Hamilton, ON

- 7 Years of Ministry with MCEC

The Commons was an urban/inner-city congregation in Hamilton, ON, under the leadership of Randell Neudorf. A faith community since 2001, they became an MCEC emerging congregation (now provisional) in April 2013. They closed their doors on December 24, 2020.

Described by Krista VanderHout who was a member of The Commons as a “bunch of dreamers who were willing to follow Jesus into a crazy experiment on the margins of what church could be,” they do not experience the closure of The Commons as sad news but rather as a good news story. “After 20 years of ministry we believe that the seeds of creativity, community, and innovation that God asked us to sow have taken root in places far beyond our little part of the kingdom,” she writes. “It is now time to formally close the last chapter of The Commons and let our family of Commoners take what they have learned into new places.”

We celebrate the lives impacted through the ministry of The Commons.

The Network, Kitchener

– 5 Years of Ministry with MCEC

The Network was a neighbourhood house church in Kitchener, ON, under the leadership of Devon & Meredith Wagler, and was an MCEC supported ministry. Although not yet a provisional congregation with MCEC, The Network was an active part of MCEC over the past five years. Officially connecting in 2015, they closed their doors in October 2020. We celebrate the lives impacted through the ministry of The Network.



Balance Sheet & Operations Statement



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - January 31, 2021

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE 12 MONTH PERIOD ENDED January 31, 2021

	ACTUAL YEAR TO DATE \$	BUDGET YEAR TO DATE \$	OVER (UNDER) BUDGET \$	BUDGET CURRENT YEAR \$
REVENUE				
Revenue - Individual and Estate Donations (MCEC)	\$104,287	\$100,000	\$4,287	\$100,000
Revenue - Individuals & Churches (MC Canada)	\$31,085	\$28,000	\$3,085	\$28,000
Revenue - Church Giving	\$1,645,630	\$1,726,183	(\$80,553)	\$1,726,183
Revenue - Relational Witness Giving	\$249,672	\$300,000	(\$50,328)	\$300,000
Revenue - Women of MCEC	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenue - Interest Income	\$165,342	\$184,732	(\$19,390)	\$184,732
Revenue - Government Subsidy	\$167,367	\$0	\$167,367	\$0
	\$2,363,382	\$2,338,915	\$24,467	\$2,338,915
Partner Ministries				
Mennonite Church Canada - Operating	\$570,000	\$570,000	\$0	\$570,000
Mennonite Church Canada - Relational Witness	\$249,672	\$300,000	(\$50,328)	\$300,000
Pass Through Donations	(\$8,025)	\$0	(\$8,025)	\$0
Mennonite World Conference	\$14,187	\$6,962	\$7,225	\$6,962
Mennonite Central Committee	\$800	\$0	\$800	\$0
Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$0	\$40,000
Conrad Grebel University College	\$146,462	\$146,462	\$0	\$146,462
Rockway Mennonite Collegiate	\$70,215	\$70,215	\$0	\$70,215
United Mennonite Educational Institute	\$26,510	\$26,510	\$0	\$26,510
Ontario Mennonite Music Camp	\$2,185	\$2,185	\$0	\$2,185
Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp	\$10,923	\$10,923	\$0	\$10,923
Silver Lake Mennonite Camp	\$10,923	\$10,923	\$0	\$10,923
Willowgrove Camp	\$10,923	\$10,923	\$0	\$10,923
Canadian Mennonite	\$81,202	\$79,842	\$1,360	\$79,842
	\$1,225,977	\$1,274,945	(\$48,968)	\$1,274,945
TOTAL OPERATING FUND REVENUE	\$1,137,405	\$1,063,970	\$73,435	\$1,063,970
OPERATING FUND EXPENDITURES				
Executive (Schedule 1)	\$96,517	\$129,586	(\$33,069)	\$129,586
Leadership Resourcing (Schedule 2)	\$199,049	\$164,090	\$34,959	\$164,090
Mission Resourcing (Schedule 3)	\$221,373	\$243,025	(\$21,652)	\$243,025
Congregational Resourcing (Schedule 4)	\$158,323	\$163,493	(\$5,170)	\$163,493
Operations (Schedule 5)	\$421,313	\$420,675	\$638	\$420,675
Occupancy (Schedule 6)	\$108,845	\$106,060	\$2,785	\$106,060
Total Operating Fund Expenditures	\$1,205,420	\$1,226,929	(\$21,509)	\$1,226,929
Net Surplus/(Deficit) from Operations	(\$68,015)	(\$162,959)	\$94,944	(\$162,959)
Transfers (to)/from Faithful Steward Fund (Policy)	\$68,015	\$162,959	(\$94,944)	\$162,959
Net Operating Fund revenue (expenditures)	\$0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0

Balance Sheet and Operations Statement



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - January 31, 2021

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES FOR THE 12 MONTH PERIOD ENDED January 31, 2021

	ACTUAL YEAR TO DATE \$	BUDGET YEAR TO DATE \$	OVER (UNDER) BUDGET \$	BUDGET CURRENT YEAR \$
Executive (Schedule 1)				
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	(\$200)	\$0	(\$200)	\$0
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$92,113	\$109,336	(\$17,222)	\$109,336
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$1,295	\$6,000	(\$4,705)	\$6,000
Staff Professional Development	\$260	\$500	(\$240)	\$500
Staff Professional Development Pool	\$508	\$9,250	(\$8,742)	\$9,250
Council & Committee Travel & Expenses	\$1,791	\$2,500	(\$709)	\$2,500
Special Projects	\$750	\$2,000	(\$1,250)	\$2,000
	<u>\$96,517</u>	<u>\$129,586</u>	<u>(\$33,069)</u>	<u>\$129,586</u>
Leadership Resourcing (Schedule 2)				
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	(\$5,852)	(\$15,000)	\$9,148	(\$15,000)
TiM - Fees, Donations, Recoveries	(\$15,866)	(\$38,400)	\$22,534	(\$38,400)
Lebold Banquet - Tickets, Donations, Sponsorships	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$89,128	\$97,390	(\$8,262)	\$97,390
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$2,089	\$7,000	(\$4,911)	\$7,000
Staff Professional Development	\$559	\$500	\$59	\$500
Council & Committee Travel & Expenses	\$858	\$1,500	(\$642)	\$1,500
Pastor & Congregational Support	\$76,565	\$19,200	\$57,365	\$19,200
TiM Program Expenses	\$13,191	\$38,400	(\$25,209)	\$38,400
Education & Training	\$38,376	\$53,500	(\$15,124)	\$53,500
Lebold Banquet Expenses & Donation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	<u>\$199,049</u>	<u>\$164,090</u>	<u>\$34,959</u>	<u>\$164,090</u>

Balance Sheet & Operations Statement



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - January 31, 2021

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES FOR THE 12 MONTH PERIOD ENDED January 31, 2021

	ACTUAL YEAR TO DATE \$	BUDGET YEAR TO DATE \$	OVER (UNDER) BUDGET \$	BUDGET CURRENT YEAR \$
Mission Resourcing (Schedule 3)				
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	(\$57,376)	(\$42,958)	(\$14,418)	(\$42,958)
Transfers In From Restricted Funds	(\$50,529)	(\$118,457)	\$67,928	(\$118,457)
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$201,054	\$199,440	\$1,614	\$199,440
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$6,229	\$12,500	(\$6,271)	\$12,500
Staff Professional Development	\$722	\$1,000	(\$278)	\$1,000
Council & Committee Travel & Expenses	\$518	\$2,000	(\$1,482)	\$2,000
Education, promotion and outreach	\$3,722	\$5,000	(\$1,278)	\$5,000
Church Planting				
Mission Associates	\$12,457	\$12,000	\$457	\$12,000
Missionary leadership development	\$235	\$20,000	(\$19,765)	\$20,000
Church plant support	\$99,075	\$109,500	(\$10,425)	\$109,500
International Mission	\$2,765	\$18,000	(\$15,235)	\$18,000
Other Mission Initiatives	\$2,500	\$25,000	(\$22,500)	\$25,000
	\$221,373	\$243,025	(\$21,652)	\$243,025
Congregational Resourcing (Schedule 4)				
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	(\$1,417)	(\$18,750)	\$17,333	(\$18,750)
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$134,239	\$137,493	(\$3,254)	\$137,493
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$6,464	\$13,500	(\$7,036)	\$13,500
Staff Professional Development	\$1,042	\$2,000	(\$958)	\$2,000
Council & Committee Travel & Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Education, promotion and outreach	\$0	\$500	(\$500)	\$500
Congregation Resourcing Program Expense	\$3,243	\$1,250	\$1,993	\$1,250
Y/YA Program Expense	\$14,751	\$27,500	(\$12,749)	\$27,500
New Ministry Initiative Expense	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$158,323	\$163,493	(\$5,170)	\$163,493
Operations (Schedule 5)				
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	(\$58,379)	(\$85,350)	\$26,971	(\$85,350)
Transfer In From Restricted Funds	\$0	(\$10,000)	\$10,000	(\$10,000)
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$416,427	\$426,233	(\$9,806)	\$426,233
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$1,181	\$7,280	(\$6,099)	\$7,280
Staff Professional Development	\$770	\$2,000	(\$1,230)	\$2,000
Council & Committee Travel & Expenses	\$0	\$500	(\$500)	\$500
Office & Admin Expenses	\$25,087	\$40,000	(\$14,913)	\$40,000
Equipment and Furniture (expensed)	\$3,807	\$5,000	(\$1,193)	\$5,000
Amortization	\$1,012	\$1,012	\$0	\$1,012
Legal & Audit Expenses	\$29,792	\$18,000	\$11,792	\$18,000
Program Expenses	\$1,616	\$16,000	(\$14,384)	\$16,000
	\$421,313	\$420,675	\$638	\$420,675

Balance Sheet and Operations Statement



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - January 31, 2021

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES
FOR THE 12 MONTH PERIOD ENDED January 31, 2021

Occupancy Costs (Schedule 6)

Rent & CAMS
Office & Building Maintenance
Insurance

ACTUAL YEAR TO DATE \$	BUDGET YEAR TO DATE \$	OVER (UNDER) BUDGET \$	BUDGET CURRENT YEAR \$
\$101,955	\$99,560	\$2,395	\$99,560
\$312	\$0	\$312	\$0
\$6,578	\$6,500	\$78	\$6,500
\$108,845	\$106,060	\$2,785	\$106,060

Restricted Funds

	Externally Restricted Funds				Internally Restricted Funds			
	Blenheim 1/31/21	Reesor 1/31/21	Mission Capital 1/31/21	Mission Donations 1/31/21	Faithful Steward 1/31/21	Property 1/31/21	Discretionary Retirement & Assistance 1/31/21	Leadership Formation 1/31/21
ASSETS								
Cash and Short-term deposits	\$28,838	\$11,165	\$223,010	\$738,782	\$862,138	\$0	\$6,559	\$187,124
Account Receivable	\$282	\$0	\$141	\$47,499	\$170,480	\$0	\$65,043	\$112
Loans Receivable	\$0	\$0	\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,425,000	\$0	\$0
Prepaid Expense	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Assets	\$29,120	\$11,165	\$373,151	\$786,280	\$1,032,618	\$1,425,000	\$71,602	\$187,236
LIABILITIES								
Accounts Payable	\$27	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$24,758	\$0	\$0
Loan Payable	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$398,227	\$0	\$0
Total Liabilities	\$27	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$422,985	\$0	\$0
EQUITY								
Balance Beginning of Year	\$27,929	\$11,872	\$373,567	\$789,692	\$1,086,392	\$1,007,220	\$1,651	\$175,151
Interest	\$1,192	\$393	\$3,584	\$18,630	\$29,629	\$0	\$50	\$2,783
Donations	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$28,487	\$19,572	\$0	\$726	\$0
Other Income	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$46	\$0	\$0
Transfers In	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$71,540	\$30,000
	\$29,120	\$12,265	\$377,151	\$836,809	\$1,135,594	\$1,007,266	\$73,967	\$207,934
Expenses	(\$27)	(\$1,100)	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$5,251)	\$0	\$0
Grants and Disbursements	\$0	\$0	(\$4,000)	\$0	(\$34,961)	\$0	(\$2,365)	(\$20,698)
Transfers Out	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$50,529)	(\$68,015)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Balance End of Year	\$29,093	\$11,165	\$373,151	\$786,280	\$1,032,618	\$1,002,015	\$71,602	\$187,236
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$29,120	\$11,165	\$373,151	\$786,280	\$1,032,618	\$1,425,000	\$71,602	\$187,236



Restricted Funds

Spending Plan/Budget



MCEC OPERATING FUND STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES

	2021-22 Budget \$	2020-21 Actual \$	2020-21 Budget \$
Revenue - Individual and Estate Donations (MCEC)	\$100,000	\$104,287	\$100,000
Revenue - Individual Donations (MC Canada)	\$0	\$31,085	\$28,000
Revenue - Church Giving	\$1,668,035	\$1,645,630	\$1,726,184
Revenue - Relational Witness Giving	\$300,000	\$249,672	\$300,000
Revenue - MCCO Interest	\$78,372	\$78,372	\$78,372
Revenue - Investment Interest	\$84,740	\$86,969	\$106,360
Government Subsidies	\$0	\$167,367	\$0
Gross Revenue	\$2,231,147	\$2,363,382	\$2,338,916
Partner Ministries			
Other Pass Through Donations	\$0	-\$8,025	\$0
Mennonite Church Canada - Operating	\$500,410	\$570,000	\$570,000
Mennonite Church Canada - Relational Witness	\$300,000	\$249,672	\$300,000
Mennonite World Conference	\$6,962	\$14,187	\$6,962
Mennonite Central Committee	\$0	\$800	\$0
Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
Conrad Grebel University College	\$146,462	\$146,462	\$146,462
Rockway Mennonite Collegiate	\$70,215	\$70,215	\$70,215
United Mennonite Educational Institute	\$26,510	\$26,510	\$26,510
Ontario Mennonite Music Camp	\$2,185	\$2,185	\$2,185
Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp	\$10,923	\$10,923	\$10,923
Silver Lake Mennonite Camp	\$10,923	\$10,923	\$10,923
Willowgrove Camp	\$10,923	\$10,923	\$10,923
Canadian Mennonite	\$84,656	\$81,202	\$79,842
Total Partner Ministries	\$1,210,170	\$1,225,977	\$1,274,945
Net Operating Revenue	\$1,020,977	\$1,137,405	\$1,063,971
Executive Council (Schedule 1)	\$108,158	\$96,517	\$129,586
Leadership Council (Schedule 2)	\$162,074	\$199,049	\$164,090
Mission Council (Schedule 3)	\$239,812	\$221,373	\$243,025
Congregational Resourcing (Schedule 4)	\$149,158	\$158,323	\$163,493
Operations (Schedule 5)	\$407,333	\$421,313	\$420,675
Occupancy Costs (Schedule 6)	\$109,346	\$108,845	\$106,060
Total Ministry Expenses	\$1,175,883	\$1,205,420	\$1,226,930
Surplus/(deficit) from operations	-\$154,906	-\$68,015	-\$162,959
Transfer from/(to) Faithful Steward Fund	\$154,906	\$68,015	\$162,959
Net Operating Surplus/Deficit	\$0	\$0	\$0

Spending Plan/Budget



	2021-22 Budget \$	2020-21 Actual (YTD) \$	2020-21 Budget \$
Executive Council (Schedule 1)			
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	\$0	-\$200	\$0
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$91,658	\$92,113	\$109,336
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$3,500	\$1,295	\$6,000
Staff Professional Development	\$500	\$260	\$500
Staff Professional Development Pool	\$9,250	\$508	\$9,250
Council & Committee Travel & Expenses	\$2,500	\$1,791	\$2,500
Special Projects	\$750	\$750	\$2,000
Total Executive Council	\$108,158	\$96,517	\$129,586
Leadership Council (Schedule 2)			
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	-\$14,250	-\$3,820	-\$15,000
TiM - Fees, Donations, Recoveries	-\$38,400	-\$15,866	-\$38,400
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$102,374	\$89,128	\$97,390
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$4,000	\$2,089	\$7,000
Staff Professional Development	\$500	\$559	\$500
Council & Committee Travel & Expenses	\$1,000	\$858	\$1,500
Pastor & Congregational Support	\$19,200	\$76,565	\$19,200
TiM Program Expenses	\$38,400	\$13,191	\$38,400
Education & Training	\$49,250	\$36,344	\$53,500
Total Leadership Council	\$162,074	\$199,049	\$164,090
Mission Council (Schedule 3)			
Transfer In - Mission Donations & Bequests	-\$117,942	-\$50,529	-\$118,457
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	-\$43,283	-\$57,376	-\$42,958
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$210,037	\$201,054	\$199,440
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$12,500	\$6,229	\$12,500
Staff Professional Development	\$1,000	\$722	\$1,000
Council & Committee Travel & Expenses	\$1,500	\$518	\$2,000
Education, promotion and outreach	\$5,000	\$3,722	\$5,000
Mission Associates	\$6,000	\$12,457	\$12,000
Missional leadership development	\$20,000	\$235	\$20,000
Church plant support	\$107,000	\$99,075	\$109,500
International Mission	\$13,000	\$2,765	\$18,000
Other Mission Initiatives	\$25,000	\$2,500	\$25,000
Total Mission Council	\$239,812	\$221,373	\$243,025

Spending Plan/Budget



	2021-22 Budget \$	2020-21 Actual \$	2020-21 Budget \$
Congregational Resourcing (Schedule 4)			
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	-\$18,750	-\$1,417	-\$18,750
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$129,908	\$134,239	\$137,493
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$9,750	\$6,464	\$13,500
Staff Professional Development	\$1,500	\$1,042	\$2,000
Council & Committee Travel & Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0
Education, promotion and outreach	\$500	\$0	\$500
Congregation Resourcing Program Expense	\$1,250	\$3,243	\$1,250
Y/YA Program Expense	\$25,000	\$14,751	\$27,500
New Ministry Initiative Expense	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Congregational Ministries	\$149,158	\$158,323	\$163,493
Operations (Schedule 5)			
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	-\$83,695	-\$58,240	-\$85,350
Transfer in from LiF (ACG)	-\$10,000	\$0	-\$10,000
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$411,986	\$416,427	\$426,233
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$4,030	\$1,042	\$7,280
Staff Professional Development	\$2,000	\$770	\$2,000
Council & Committee Travel & Expenses	\$500	\$0	\$500
Office & Admin Expenses	\$27,400	\$25,087	\$40,000
Amortization	\$1,012	\$1,012	\$1,012
Equipment and Furniture (expensed)	\$3,000	\$3,807	\$5,000
Legal & Audit Expenses	\$22,500	\$29,792	\$18,000
Program Expenses	\$28,600	\$1,616	\$16,000
Total Operations	\$407,333	\$421,313	\$420,675
Occupancy Costs (Schedule 6)			
Rent & CAMS	\$102,846	\$101,955	\$99,560
Office & Building Maintenance	\$0	\$312	\$0
Insurance	\$6,500	\$6,578	\$6,500
Total Occupancy Costs	\$109,346	\$108,845	\$106,060

Legacy Initiatives Fund



Legacy Initiatives Fund Revenue and Disbursements to Date For Period Ending January 31, 2021

	Actual FYE 31-Jan-21	Actual Prev. Years	Total to Date	Projected Totals
Revenue				
Estate Gifts	\$900,000	\$11,233,063	\$12,133,063	\$16,233,063
Interest Income	\$79,634	\$713,949	\$793,583	\$1,214,987
Less: Legal Costs	-\$60,208	-\$140,775	-\$200,983	-\$240,983
Net Revenue to date	\$919,426	\$11,806,237	\$12,725,663	\$17,207,067
Disbursements				
Tithing to Wider Church	\$82,704	\$1,174,672	\$1,257,376	\$1,663,376
Tithing to MCEC Restricted Funds	\$0	\$2,219,342	\$2,219,342	\$2,219,342
Transfer to Operating Fund	\$79,634	\$0	\$79,634	\$324,237
Courageous Imagination	\$2,599	\$0	\$2,599	\$140,000
Making Disciples	\$218,810	\$1,378,649	\$1,597,458	\$2,157,649
Forming Leaders	\$564,375	\$1,631,671	\$2,196,046	\$2,217,146
Growing Congregations	\$214,025	\$746,494	\$960,519	\$1,932,612
Total Disbursements	\$1,162,146	\$7,150,828	\$8,312,974	\$10,654,362
MCCO Loan (50 Kent)			\$398,227	\$398,227
Fund Balance			\$4,014,462	\$6,154,478

Ministry Transitions



MINISTRY TRANSITIONS - FEBRUARY 1, 2020 – JANUARY 31, 2021



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

Ordained

Kendra Whitfield Ellis	Waterloo North Mennonite Church	Minister
Hyung Jin (Pablo) Kim Sun ◇	Toronto Mennonite New Life Church	Minister

Licensed Toward Ordination

Caleb Ratzlaff ◇	Westview Mennonite Fellowship	Minister
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Licensed For Specific Ministry - None

Credential Withdrawn (Non-disciplinary)

Ryan Jantzi	Kingsfield-Zurich Mennonite Church	Termination of MCEC Congregational Membership
Brent Kipfer	Maple View Mennonite Church	Termination of MCEC Congregational Membership
Marilyn Zehr	Toronto United Mennonite Church	Credentials transferred to the United Church of Canada

Credential Transferred

Alicia Buhler	Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church	Credentials transferred to Mennonite Church Manitoba
Susan Nickel	Chatham-Kent Health Alliance	Credentials transferred to Mennonite Church British Columbia

Credential Withdrawn (Disciplinary)

Wilmer Martin	Termination of Ordination Credentials
John D. Rempel	Termination of Ordination Credentials

Credential Expired

Doug Johnson Hatlem	Erb Street Mennonite Church, Waterloo	Resignation
Susan Kennel Harrison	The Hospice of Windsor and Essex County	Resignation
Jodie Boyer Hatlem	Erb Street Mennonite Church, Waterloo	Resignation

Placements

Rudy Baergen	Erb Street Mennonite Church	Interim Minister
Quenton Little	Agape Fellowship	Minister
Dave Rogalsky	Bloomington Mennonite Church	Supply Minister
Fanosie Legesse	Mennonite Church Eastern Canada	Intercultural Mission Minister
Emily Rempel	Elmira Mennonite Church	Youth Worker
Erwin Wiens	Elmira Mennonite Church	Interim Minister
Glyn Jones	Community Mennonite Church of Stouffville and Rouge Valley Mennonite Church	Shared Minister
Bev Suderman-Gladwell	Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church	Interim Minister
Beth Woelk ◇	Grace Mennonite Church	Associate Minister: Pastoral Care and Spiritual Formation
Danielle Raimbault ◇	Preston Mennonite Church and Wanner Mennonite Church	Minister
KyongJung Kim ◇	Preston Mennonite Church and Wanner Mennonite Church	Minister
Leah Reesor-Keller	Mennonite Church Eastern Canada	Executive Minister
Gary Knarr	Mannheim Mennonite Church	Interim Minister
Sean East	Listowel Mennonite Church	Minister
Annika Krause	Mennonite Fellowship of Montreal	Minister
Matthew Bailey-Dick	The First Mennonite Church	Interim Minister
Doug Amstutz	Erie View United Mennonite Church	Minister
Max Kennel	Steinmann Mennonite Church	Interim Minister

Ministry Transitions

Concluding Assignments

Doug Johnson Hatlem	Erb Street Mennonite Church	Minister
Barb Smith-Morrison	Bloomingtondale Mennonite Church	Minister
Glyn Jones	Wanner Mennonite Church	Minister
Danielle Raimbault	Listowel Mennonite Church	Minister
Gary Knarr	Preston Mennonite Church	Interim Minister
Ken Driedger	North Leamington United Mennonite Church	Interim Minister
Gord Alton	Mannheim Mennonite Church	Minister
Emily Rempel	Elmira Mennonite Church	Youth Worker
Sean East	West Hills Mennonite Fellowship	Minister
Zach Charbonneau	Leamington United Mennonite Church	Minister
Wendy Janzen	St. Jacobs Mennonite Church	Minister
Susan Kennel Harrison	The Hospice of Windsor and Essex County	Chaplain
Randell Neudorf	The Commons	Church Planter
Myrna Miller Dyck	Steinmann Mennonite Church	Minister
Stephanie Ball	Community Mennonite Fellowship	Youth Worker
Jodie Boyer Hatlem	Erb Street Mennonite Church	Minister
Rudy Baergen	Erb Street Mennonite Church	Interim Minister
Bev Suderman-Gladwell	Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church	Interim Minister
Ernie Harris	Nairn Mennonite Church	Minister

Pastoral Retirements

Fred Lichti	Elmira Mennonite Church	Minister
Renee Sauder	Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church	Minister
David Brubacher	Grace Mennonite Church	Minister
John Docherty	Mennonite Fellowship of Montreal	Minister

Deaths

David Epp-Stobbe	Retired Minister (St. Catharines, Hamilton, Fairview Mennonite Home)	August 9, 2020
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Ordination Milestones

65 years

Gordon Bauman
Herb Schultz

40 years

Erwin Wiens
David Shantz
Edmund Pries

55 years

Glenn Brubacher

25 years

Mary Burkholder
Ongath Phounsavath
Al Rempel

50 years

Winston Martin

10 years

Bock Ki Kim
Art Sheil

New/Returning Pastors

February 1, 2020 to January 31, 2021

Quenton Little, Pastor, Agape Fellowship



I can't say how, where or what God is at work during this time in our world. But perhaps, strangely enough, this may be exactly where God wants us to be. The world is a crazy place that is hard to understand. In spite of that, we have God, and we are still able to talk to God every day. The things that we don't understand we can give to God to keep for the day and he will make us understand. This may very well be God saying to us, "Trust me, I got you, and I will not let you get lost." Now is our time to trust God a bit more, talk less and listen more to God. And to wait patiently for God. The writer of Lamentations wasn't far off when they wrote: "God's loyal love couldn't have run out; his merciful love couldn't have dried up. They're created new every morning. How great your faithfulness! I'm sticking with God (I say it over and over). He's all I've got left." (Lamentations 3:24; The Message)

Erwin Wiens, Interim Pastor, Elmira Mennonite Church



I've been an interim pastor at Elmira Mennonite Church for nine months. I have not yet met the congregation, although I have visited some members in their driveway or on their porch. We have had several members who have contracted Covid-19, but fortunately, no deaths. We record our Sunday service weekly and all of our meetings are via ZOOM. God is teaching me and the entire congregation patience as we wait for the pandemic to give way to a routine of worship, singing, teaching and sharing food.



Fanosie Legesse, Intercultural Mission Minister, MCEC

I see God's active engagement in the time I am in, the space I am invited into, the staff I am to work with, and the constituency I am committed to serve. Yes, the title "Intercultural Mission Minister" is a visionary effort of the hiring body to describe what will unfold as the fruit of this office, both in a short-term and long-term basis. I see God at work already in the meeting and interaction of people of several cultures, nations, languages, colors and socio-economic statuses. I also have very strong optimism brewing in me that comes from my trust in God who has been with the body of Christ throughout history. I know that the same God will also be with us today and for the unknown future. In other words, I see God at work in my daily functions as I try to use every opportunity to grow into this new position and be a more useful servant to the church. In addition, I believe that God will grant all of us the wisdom that we need to facilitate the interaction, intersection, interrelation, inter-dependency and inter-empowerment of each other as we become an intercultural community of Christ.



Beth Woelk, Associate Pastor, Grace Mennonite Church

In my work during the pandemic I have spent a lot of time on the phone with the elder members in our congregation. I call to encourage and often come away encouraged myself! I'm amazed at the ways God moves in hearts that are open and receptive to create growth, resiliency, meaning and beauty in the midst of our experiences and in whatever season of life we find ourselves.

New/Returning Pastors

February 1, 2020 to January 31, 2021

KyongJung Kim, Co-pastor, Preston and Wanner Mennonite Churches

I experience God when I read the Scripture text and understand the meaning of it. I experience God in a nature walk with my wife, breathing in the fresh air, looking at a night sky. I experience God in the worship service, prayer meetings and in the small group. I also experience God when I see my neighbours connected with others who are quite different from each other. I experience God in my family life eating, talking and spending time together. Most of all, I experience God in my spirit and heart through thought, emotions, physical strength and will.



Leah Reesor-Keller, Executive Minister, MCEC

Since starting my role with MCEC in September 2020, I've seen God at work in the passionate and faithful pastors and congregational leaders who are finding creative ways to lead worship and support their faith communities despite the pandemic challenges.



Annika Krause, Pastor, Mennonite Fellowship of Montreal

I see God at work in my congregation in how people are committed to care for each other. People have brought food to those who are unwell and they call or Zoom with those who are having a hard time with the current restrictions and curfew in Montreal. And, this generosity of spirit has extended beyond the immediate context of the congregation and into the struggles of the people in this city. It is a joy to be called to serve here.



Matthew Bailey-Dick, Interim Pastor, The First Mennonite Church

I see congregational members encouraging each other, loving each other, joking with each other and prodding each other into new leadership roles. I see congregational members working on the front lines of COVID, side-by-side with other healthcare workers, service workers, farmers and teachers. I see the hands and feet of Jesus.

Credentialed Ministers

February 1, 2020 to January 31, 2021



Kendra Whitfield Ellis, Pastor, Waterloo North Mennonite Church (Ordination)

I experience God's presence in many ways in the Waterloo North Mennonite congregation where I have the privilege to share in ministry. One of the most profound ways that I have witnessed God at work has been through an online grief group that emerged after several people had experienced the deaths of loved ones in our congregation. These experiences of loss and grief, as many of us know, have been magnified during this pandemic time period. The way this group listens and cares for each other, along with each member sharing so vulnerably and openly is the evidence of the sacredness of "God with us." Our God is a God with skin who sits among us, cries with us and carries what is too great for each of us to bear alone.

Hyung Jin (Pablo) Kim Sun, Pastor, Toronto Mennonite New Life Church (Ordination)

In my life and in my congregation, I experience God working in the midst of uncertainty. For my whole life, I have lived as an immigrant, whether in Paraguay, the U.S., and now in Canada. For more than 13



years, I've lived with a temporary visa status; always wondering and not knowing what next year will look like for me and my family. While the pandemic made the situation worse, the uncertainty that I am experiencing in this new reality is not that different from what most of our church members have experienced. Yet, in the midst of uncertain life, we experience God's powerful presence during our weekly Zoom gathering. We sense the warmth of love and care when we call each other. We hold each other tightly through our prayers. In each of these gatherings, encounters and conversations we experience the work of the Holy Spirit. I believe that we will continually experience God in this way because we are always immigrants, spiritually and in our social status, and are always on our journey toward a true home.

Caleb Ratzlaff, Pastor, Westview Mennonite Fellowship (Licensed Towards Ordination)

Westview is called to be contributing member of the Queenston Street neighbourhood in St. Catharines. Every neighbour has a gift to share, and it's a blessing to have talented neighbours. For example, although we've had to all learn wisdom and patience, it's been a delight to discover what it means to support our neighbours who run and use the Consumption & Treatment Services next store. The community gardens are another example. Together with our neighbours, supported by the city, we've cultivated the earth's gifts while learning about food security. We witness the grace of God in and through our neighbourhood.

MCEC Staff



Brent Charette

Operations and Church
Engagement Minister

bcharette@mcec.ca

Brent oversees financial, church engagement and legal operations of MCEC. Brent is available to your congregation as a resource in these areas and more.



Katie Goerzen Sheard

Coordinator of Youth Events

kgoerzensheard@mcec.ca

Katie connects with MCEC youth and sponsors across MCEC. She works alongside the Youth Ministry Dream Team to build relationships and events.



Kevin Derksen

Regional Ministry Associate

kderksen@mcec.ca

Kevin builds relationships with pastors within a geographical area of MCEC. He will connect you with resources and supports to enhance and enrich your ministry.



Ellen Kim

Administrative Assistant

ekim@mcec.ca

Ellen works with the Church Leadership Minister and the church leadership team to support the needs of our pastors and congregational leaders.



Norm Dyck

Mission Minister

ndyck@mcec.ca

Norm works with newcomer congregations and church plants, as well as encourages congregational missional activities and disciple-making initiatives. He fosters intercultural connections across MCEC.



Fanosie Legesse

Intercultural Mission Minister

flegesse@mcec.ca

Fanosie is educator, listener, mentor and bridge-builder as he helps to foster relationships between and bring a cultural awareness to the MCEC community of congregations.



Sean East

Finance Manager

seast@mcec.ca

Sean oversees the day-to-day financial operations of MCEC. He works with ReLearning Community and Informed Conversations. Contact Sean with financial questions or concerns.



David Martin

Executive Minister

dmartin@mcec.ca

David nurtures the mission of MCEC, alongside the Executive Council and staff team. David finished his ministry with MCEC in summer 2020.

MCEC Staff



Leah Reesor-Keller

Executive Minister

lreesorkeller@mcec.ca

Leah nurtures the mission of MCEC, alongside the Executive Council and staff team. Leah began her ministry in Fall 2020.



Marilyn Rudy-Froese

Church Leadership Minister

mrudyfroese@mcec.ca

Marilyn works closely with pastors, chaplains and leaders and supports them in their calling, formation and placement as ministers and chaplains throughout MCEC.



Michel Monette

Catalyzer Minister

mmonette@mcec.ca

Michel works with new leaders and congregations in Ottawa and Quebec. He preaches, teaches and coaches those who are newly connecting with MCEC.



Joan Schooley

Administrative Assistant

jschooley@mcec.ca

Joan is administrative assistant to the Executive Minister and Operations Minister. She can be found working at the reception desk.



Mollee Moua

Administrative Assistant

mmoua@mcec.ca

Mollee provides support to the mission office in MCEC. As our event planner she is busy helping to plan retreats, events and Annual Church Gathering.



Cathrin van Sintren-Dick

Regional Ministry Associate

cvansinterndick@mcec.ca

Cathrin builds relationships with pastors within a geographical areas of MCEC. She will connect you with resources and supports to enhance and enrich your ministry.



Al Rempel

Regional Minister

arempel@mcec.ca

Al works with congregations and pastors on behalf of the church leadership team. He helps congregations discover God's leading through Informed Conversations.



Lisa Williams

Director of Communications

williams@mcec.ca

Lisa connects congregations through sharing stories of God's ministry in and through the people of MCEC and MC Canada.

MCEC Volunteers



MCEC Volunteers 2020 – 2021

Alissa Bender
Alyssa Boyadjian
Andi Myriam Joseph
Andrew Cullar
Andrew Roth
Anna Wiebe
Anthony Kabbes
Anthony Siegrist
Arli Klassen
Barb Burkard
Ben Cassels
Brian Quan
Carol Ringer
Carrie Lehn
Cassie Lachance
Cassie Makinen
Cate Falconer
Chanel Cressman
Caroline Hamm
Ching Jehu Lian
Chung Vang
Colin McCartney
Craig Frere
Darlene Gingerich
Dave Joseph
Dave Rogalsky
Dave Wideman
Dawne Driedger
Diane Lichti
Donny Cheung
Ed Heide
Ed Janzen
Edna Bejarano
Emily Rempel
Ernie Harris
Charleen Jongejan Harder
Gary Knarr
Gladys Bender
J D Penner
Janel Heimstra
Jason McDowell
Jen Helmuth
Jessica Schrock-Ringenberg
Jim Loepp Thiessen
Jim Tiessen

Jonathan Brubacher
Jonathan Klassen
Jordan Thoms
Joseph Raltong
Josh Watson
Joyce Collard
Judith McCartney
Judith Stamp
Kara Carter
Karen Heese
Karen Sheil
Karey Musselman
Kathe Warkentin
Katie Goerzen-Sheard
Keith Regehr
Kevin Peters-Unrau
Lorena Diller Harder
Louise Wideman
Ly Vang
Lynea Brubacher Kaethler
Lynn Rempel
Maciel Arias
Marcel Vaillancour
Mark Diller Harder
Marion Roes
Mary Ann Musser
Maurice Martin
Melinda Metzger
Michael Steinmann
Michele Hershberger
Morgan Grainger
Paul Fieguth
Peter Janzen
Rebecca Penner
Rebecca Riek
Rich Steinmann
Richard Ratzlaff
Robert Thiessen
Roger Kehl
Roy Scheerer
Rudy Baergen
Sara Fretz
Sean East
Stephanie Chandler Burns
Sue Wahl
Susanna Hiebert

Suzanne Bender
Tim Reimer
Visanou Saythavy
Wendy Janzen
Yoel Masyawong



Executive Minister's report

"I will build my church." (Matt. 16:18); I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Matt. 28:20).

With the recent release of the *Voices Together* hymnal, my familiarity with *Hymnal: A Worship Book* will soon fade. Like many of you, I have turned to that book weekly for worship planning. As a result, lyrics and tunes often come to mind during the blessings and challenges of my day. One hymn that has remained close since the middle of March is hymn #570 "We

walk by faith." Centered around Jesus's post-resurrection encounter with his disciples in John 20:19ff, the hymn speaks of abounding hope. Though we cannot "touch his hands and side, nor follow where he trod, yet in his promise we rejoice, and cry, 'My Lord and God!'"

Since mid-March I have been repeatedly asked if I worry what COVID-19 will do to the Church. I respond that I'm not worried about the future of the capital "C" church because it is sustained by the promises of Jesus and empowered by the Holy Spirit. In Matthew's gospel, Jesus says he will build the church and that he is always with us.

I am concerned, however, about denominational ecclesiology, leadership structures and the expressions of the church in our localities (church with a small "c"). Indeed our larger, nationwide church has sensed shifts for some time and even acted in response to some of them, with the Future Directions Task Force. COVID-19 is accelerating further change at a pace we didn't predict or



plan for. Many of you are experiencing this in your local church setting. You know that, when the pandemic is over, we won't return to church as normal. In these uncertain times, "we walk by faith, and not by sight," just as Jesus's disciples did.

A sincere and heartfelt thank you to the hundreds of people serving in our nationwide church with your time, talents and abilities. For some it has been a very difficult summer and fall, yet we press on in faith and hope. May we all continue to draw strength from each other and from the One who "we believe (is) near."

I'm excited to share with you the formation of three new groups giving leadership to our denomination in the coming year. While given a nationwide focus, these groups will also have expressions at regional church and congregational levels:

- **Community of Spiritual Leaders (COSL)**

Recommended by the Future Directions Task Force, the development of a COSL is now underway. The group will assist our denomination in nurturing a strong Anabaptist identity, discern issues facing the church, provide encouragement and support for spiritual leaders, help develop leadership and support credentialing and mutual accountability. The first COSL meeting is in December 2020.

- **Sustainability Leadership Group (SLG)**

This group will consider ways in which our denomination can improve its environmental, social and economic sustainability, in the present and in the long-term.

- **Intercultural Church Steering Committee (ICSC)**

This steering committee will work as a group of "ecclesial cartographers" – church map-makers, charting a path for Mennonite Church Canada to become an intercultural church that embraces cultural diversity and learns from our BIPOC brothers and sisters. Initial work may include exploring and arranging training sessions on intercultural awareness and hosting a symposium where BIPOC participants meet to make recommendations for our nationwide church.

Submitted by
Doug Klassen
Executive Minister
dklassen@mennonitechurch.ca

Mennonite Church Canada

CommonWord

Bookstore and Resource Centre

As the nationwide bookstore and resource centre, CommonWord is privileged to have regular interactions with avid readers, small group leaders, pastors and others within our Mennonite Church Canada family and across the ecumenical church. We also serve the needs of the Canadian Mennonite University community on the Shaftesbury campus in Winnipeg, Man. In all we do, we strive to make Anabaptist and related resources easily available to buy, borrow or access online. Here are our 2020 highlights:

Three new website resources available to congregations

- On May 5, CommonWord helped launch Mennonite Central Committee's revised website, abuseresponseandprevention.ca. This collaborative project hosts resources on abuse, family violence, clergy sexual misconduct and more.
- On June 1 we launched our new website at commonword.ca. This more robust and user-friendly web platform makes it simpler to buy, borrow or access Anabaptist resources online.



Together in Worship leadership team.

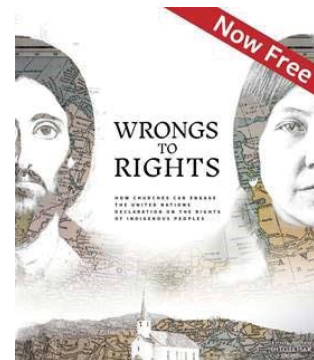
- In November, CommonWord helped launch togetherinworship.net with Together in Worship. Together, we curated over 1,500 digital, Anabaptist worship materials, including visual art, music, videos and words for worship, with more to come. All are available for free from Together in Worship or CommonWord.

Resource promotions

- This fall's [CommonRead](https://commonread.ca) title was *Signs of Life*.

Beginning in January, we encourage congregations to read [*I Am Not Your Enemy*](#), a collection of sacred stories about reconciliation and justice.

- *Wrongs to Rights*, a Mennonite Church Canada study resource on the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, is now [free through CommonWord](#). This work is relevant even more now that the federal government has tabled Bill C-15.



- For many months we have actively promoted materials that relate directly to current issues such as the pandemic and racial injustice. We encourage you to engage these important conversations.

New resources

- This fall, Mennonite Church Canada and MCC released [*Be It Resolved*](#), a 450-page anthology of over 90 documents detailing commitments Anabaptists have made to Indigenous justice and decolonization.
- In late November, the long-awaited *Voices Together* hymnal editions arrived. Individual or small orders of the pew, accompaniment and large-print editions, and CDs, can be placed with [CommonWord](#). Bulk copies and digital recordings can be purchased directly through [MennoMedia](#).
- We stock all Herald Press titles (to buy or borrow), including [*The Jesus Way: Small Books of Radical Faith*](#). Curricula and periodicals continue to be available directly through [MennoMedia](#).

CommonWord has been directly impacted by COVID-19. I am grateful for church and university support as we guided our ministry through various levels of pandemic restriction; for our staff who weathered temporary layoffs, worked from home and adapted to greater online customer service; and for your continued trust as we advance resources that seek to strengthen the church – even, or perhaps especially, in these strange times.

Submitted by Arlyn Friesen Epp
Director of CommonWord
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Indigenous-Settler Relations

Highlights from 2020:

Federal government tables Declaration legislation



For the past five years, Indigenous-Settler Relations (ISR) has worked tirelessly alongside Indigenous organizations and faith communities advocating for federal legislation to implement the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* in Canada. On Dec. 3, we realized a significant step toward that goal when the federal government tabled Bill C-15, An Act Respecting the *UN Declaration*. "It is a good day!" said Chief Wilton Littlechild, former Commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. If Bill C-15 reaches Royal Assent, it will affirm the *Declaration's* application in Canadian law and provide a framework to align law and policy with the minimum standards and rights affirmed in the *Declaration*. To read the full text of the legislation, [see Bill C-15](#). To read the *Declaration* Coalition's statement of support (ISR is a signatory to this Coalition) and resources for further learning, visit [declarationcoalition.com](#).

Be It Resolved: remembering our covenant promises

After a year of research, editing and design-work, ISR released our latest resource, *Be It Resolved: Anabaptists & Partner Coalitions Advocate for Indigenous Justice*. This anthology, co-produced by Mennonite Church Canada and MCC, brings together over 90 documents



that trace the history of Anabaptist commitments to Indigenous justice and decolonization since the mid-1960s. With an eight-session study guide, our prayer is that congregations, small groups and the regional ISR working groups will find *Be It Resolved* an empowering resource that nurtures joy and courage. Joy as we grow in awareness of the covenants we have made to right historic wrongs, and courage to "flesh" these sacred promises into the present with collective action. May it be! Read an [interview](#) and [article](#) about this resource. Order through [CommonWord](#).

Evangelical Fellowship of Canada makes seven commitments for right relations

In 2019, the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (EFC)



EFC ISR Working Group.

formed an ISR Working Group in response to a call from Indigenous Christian leaders for the EFC to look back at its history of engagement with Indigenous peoples and identify barriers to meaningful and sustained evangelical work that moves toward reconciliation. ISR, on behalf of Mennonite Church Canada, was invited to participate in this group, along with reps from other denominations. Through online meetings over many months the group drafted a set of seven commitments (together with [a background paper](#)) that the EFC is now taking up in pursuit of right relations. [These commitments were publicly released in June](#). These significant promises could, over time, have a real impact on the larger evangelical community. EFC is now creating (based on the guidance of the EFC ISR working group) an Indigenous Advisory Council that will inform EFC's work on the implementation of the seven commitments. Read an [interview](#) with EFC.

Good things are happening. Stay tuned for more in the months ahead!

Submitted by Steve Heinrichs
Director of Indigenous-Settler Relations
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mennonitechurch.ca/indigenous


International Witness

This year I learned gratitude as I witnessed individuals and congregations across Canada, despite many changes and challenges, reach out to brothers and sisters around the world with gifts of prayer, encouragement and financial support. It is a true testament to God's Spirit moving among us that we chose to open our hearts even as we were forced to close our doors. Here are some stories about the work of International Witness (IW) in 2020. Click on the links throughout to read the full stories.

International Witness invites congregations to participate in Witness Support Networks


In 2020 five groups of congregational representatives met online with Witness workers and international partners forming Witness Support Networks. Each Network supports one specific ministry, and receives updates and information about that ministry from Witness workers. Witness Support Networks provide a way for congregations in our nationwide family of faith to connect more closely with international ministries and partners. We have much to learn from each other. For more information, visit mennonitechurch.ca/witness-support-networks.

Support shown for Witness workers and ministries through COVID-19 shutdown


**International
Witness Workers**



China
George and Tobia Veith



Thailand
Tom and Christine Poovong



Philippines
Dann and Joji Pantoja



South Korea
Bock Ki Kim and Sook Kyoung Park

Experiences around the world varied and yet were strangely the same while COVID-19 drastically changed plans for everyone.

All our Witness workers were able to stay in their places of ministry and continue working during various levels of shutdowns. The Witness Support Network for ministry in the Philippines provided extra funding to help support the program there as local income from coffee sales dried up.

New initiatives supported by IW include:

- a focus on Anabaptist training through [a resourcing network in Asia](#),
- [social enterprise in Burkina Faso](#),
- literacy classes in Congo,
- [income generation in Thailand](#) and
- an agreement to learn together with Bethlehem Bible College.

Walking alongside our global brothers and sisters in times of crises



Pastors serving in Tigray region.

We prayed for and with brothers and sisters in the Philippines and Vietnam as typhoons hit their countries. We stood beside Mennonite Church

Colombia as they [issued a strong, public call for peace](#) amid violence and displacement in experienced in rural communities. We learned from the Palestinian Christian community through conversations with Bethlehem Bible College staff. We [contacted leaders and prayed for peace](#) in the war-torn Tigray region of Ethiopia.

International Witness Sunday strengthens relationships across nationwide community of faith



Congregations across our nationwide community of faith took part in International Witness Sunday

in October. This will be an annual event that not only celebrates the work of IW but invites participation and mutual learning, giving and sharing between our Canadian congregations and our global brothers and sisters. Videos, worship resources and more are available at mennonitechurch.ca/IW-Sunday.

Submitted by Jeanette Hanson
Director of International Witness
jhanson@mennonitechurch.ca
mennonitechurch.ca/international-witness

Mennonite Church Manitoba 2020 in Review



Mennonite Church Manitoba is 8,000 people in 39 congregations that covenant together to follow Jesus and live out the call of Christ within an Anabaptist perspective. Together with our regional partners of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Eastern Canada, we are part of a nationwide community of faith that is extending God's love to our neighbours locally, nationally and globally.

How does one measure the past year where familiar patterns and routines have had to give way to new and creative practices and where virtual gatherings through online "ZOOM" has replaced the familiar in-person meetings. How do we give account for the 525,600 minutes in 2020? I highlight a few of the more memorable of this past year.

Leadership Transition

We said farewell to Ken Warkentin after 10 years of serving as Executive Minister. We welcome **Michael Pahl** as Executive Minister beginning in January 2021. Michael's theological astuteness and pastoral experience will serve the Mennonite Church well into the future.

Rick Neufeld (Director of Leadership Ministries) served as Interim Executive Minister. Peter Rempel served in the role of Interim Administrative Assistant.

Worship Gatherings

What a gift to worship together virtually with the Nationwide Church. Through the medium of video technology, a weekly online worship service gave opportunity for gathering altogether. Many comments received suggested that this way technology provided a renewed sense of belonging to the larger community of faith. With the partnership of the Regional Churches, worship reflected a wide scope of diversity across the Mennonite Church. Thanks to Douglas Mennonite, Morden Mennonite, Charleswood Mennonite, Springstein Mennonite and the MCM Staff who provided worship on behalf of the MCM Regional Church.

"Camps with Meaning" Ministry

The pandemic of 2020 left the Camping Ministry with only a few options. Pop up camp days in Winnipeg, Steinbach, Morden, Camp Koinonia and Assiniboia provided a welcome relief to the many summer fun cancellations. Two weeks of day camp at Camp Assiniboia presented both camper and staff opportunity to experience the beauty of God's creation in a safe outdoor environment.

Due to pandemic restrictions and public health protocols, overnight camp and potential revenue generated from Camp Assiniboia rentals diminished drastically. As a result and most disappointing was the lay-off of seven camp staff personnel in September. The impact of these decreases in staff and revenue has been extremely difficult. Thanks to all the staff for their huge contributions that they have made as well as many sacrifices because of the prevailing circumstances.

Pastors are connecting

Online pastoral conversations have provided MCM Pastors to connect with one another across the region. These times of meeting provide support to pastors with helpful insights in responding to the immediate challenges that Covid-19 presented. These meetings provided new and creative ways to navigate ways to offer care to the congregation in the midst of Covid limitations that restrict and hindered our gatherings together.

Mennonite Church Manitoba

MCM pastors and leadership teams have maintained connections with their congregants virtually; regular email updates and via personal phone calls. Congregational Search committees have used ZOOM virtual technology for continued pastoral discernment and placement. Webinars and online seminars for professional development have been encouraged for pastors to learn and grow.

Mennonite Church Ministries

International Witness global ministries and Indigenous/Settler Relations is the work of the five regional partners of the Mennonite Nation-wide church. Regional funding for these ministries works to assist local congregations in their mission initiatives.

MCM serves as the conduit for the funding of these ministries from the regional Church. Furthermore, MCM supports the work of Canadian Mennonite University and the Canadian Mennonite publication. More than 50% of all money received from congregations and individual donors that come to MCM support these areas of ministry.

Moving forward

There is little doubt that 2020 will be remembered for many things, perhaps not the least, will be the impact that a pandemic has had on our lives and the world. We have needed to adapt to a new reality and we will need to continue to draw on this strength as we move forward. Together we seek to follow the path made by Jesus.

Submitted by Rick Neufeld, Interim Executive Minister

Mennonite Church Saskatchewan



Mennonite Church Saskatchewan 2020 Annual Report

Mennonite Church Saskatchewan (MC Sask) is a community of 25 congregations who have covenanted together to be Christ Centred & Sent. We support each other in ministry, do things together which we cannot do alone, are church together throughout the province, and connect to the larger Mennonite Church body through Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite World Conference.



As we were preparing to *Deepen Our Walk with Each Other & The World* at the 2020 MC Sask Delegate Sessions in March, everything came to a halt. "COVID", "pivot", and "Zoom" filled our everyday language as the year we were anticipating did not come to fruition. And yet, as a resilient people, the work and life of MC Sask adapted and continued as we found new ways to walk with each other and the world.

Congregational Transitions

Throughout the year, transitions continued to take place in creative, 'COVID-safe' ways, with virtual or outdoor attendance making many of the following events possible.

On May 31, the life of **Superb Mennonite Church** (MC) was celebrated as the congregation held their final worship service and brought their ministry to a close. On August 23, the MC Sask community gathered at Zoar MC to celebrate the ordination of their pastor, **Andrea Enns-Gooding**. In October, **Zoar MC** also celebrated their 110th Anniversary. This event was bittersweet as Zoar MC has decided to close their doors in the spring of 2021. **Josh Wallace** completed his term as pastor of Warman MC in January to enter into church planting with his wife, Cindy. Grace MC, Regina, celebrated the ministry of **Rose Graber** as she retired at the end of June and welcomed **Rodney Hennessay** as their new pastor on October 1. **Claire Ewert Fisher** concluded her interim ministry at Rosthern MC and became co-pastor at Mount Royal MC. **Ed Olfert** concluded his ministry at Grace MC, Prince Albert, at the end of December.

The Work of the Church: Regionally, Nationwide, Internationally

As 2020 began, **Scott Feick** and **Sarah Unrau** served in interim roles in youth ministry, but when COVID restrictions arrived, all MC Sask youth programming ceased. Our camps (**Elim**, **Shekinah**, **Youth Farm**) were significantly impacted by the lack of programming and rentals, however, building upgrades and outdoor activities (like a Fall Pastor's Gathering, Corn Maze) were able to take place when guidelines allowed. We had the unique opportunity to gather with sisters and brothers across **MC Canada** on a weekly basis over the spring and summer by participating in online worship services, which several of our congregations and pastors, and **Rosthern Junior College**, provided as well. MC Sask has a long history of supporting the work of MC Canada and **International Witness**, and this year we have seen the support and engagement of this work increase in exciting ways. The work of the church opens us up to mutually transformative relationships that allow us to deepen our walk with our neighbours across the street and around the world.

While 2020 was not the year we expected, and we certainly mourn the losses we have experienced, we are grateful for the ongoing support, prayer and work we do together as we seek to be Christ Centred & Sent!

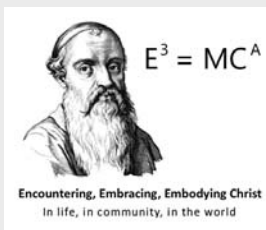
Sincerely,
Your staff,

Ryan, Kirsten, Josh & Marianne



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

MCA consists of 12 congregations with 1100 participants worshipping in 5 languages.



Year 1 of E3, a 3-year action plan, focused on “in life.” The **E3 Reference Group** prepared a bucket list of ideas to deepen our faith and encourage new spiritual practices.

Click [here](#) for all things E3.

Other E3 resources include:

- Weekly prayers shared with congregations
- Reflections on encounters with Christ can be found in the Communiqué, in Canadian Mennonite and on the MCA website
- Pandemic-friendly resources guided congregations in worship on September 27
- The online **Advent Calendar** encouraged the practices of Lectio Divina and Visio Divina
- **CommonWord** curated a list of [E3 resources](#)

In 2021 we will move to **Year 2**, “in community.”

The Church: People not Buildings

A popular saying circulated in March, as church doors closed to in-person worship. We were reminded that the church has not “closed” due to the pandemic, because the church is *people*, and not *buildings*. In 2020 we saw people across our nationwide family give life to this truth.



MCA churches provided 6 worship services for our MC Canada family

Flexibility - Our MCA delegate sessions were cancelled one week before they were to take place and MCA Executive requested a one-week delay to prepare for online sessions. At the tip of the iceberg of uncertainty, congregations and delegates were supportive and adapted. Over the weeks, as one upcoming event after another was cancelled, staff, committees and volunteers took up the challenge to explore what *could* happen, instead of what *couldn't*.

Celebration & Connection - Perhaps ironically, 2020 was a year of connection. **Tim Wiebe-Neufeld** (Executive Minister) was more frequently and deeply involved in congregational and pastoral support. **Pastors Council** met more often, encouraging one another, updating resources and adjusting to changing needs. In a small window of opportunity, pastors were able to meet in person for a retreat. During the November **congregational check-in**, we listened as each congregation shared challenges and celebrations in their COVID journey.

New Initiatives - Virtual connections flourished in 2020. **Donna Entz** (North Edmonton Ministries) and **Jon Olfert** (Camp Valaqua) hosted two series exploring how to **Engage** in relationships that transcend culture,



www.mcab.ca

January 15, 2021



Staff transition: In July we said "goodbye" to **June Miller** and "hello" to **Ruth Bergen Braun** in the position of *Communications Coordinator*. Together with the Community Building and Program Committee, June and Ruth have added lighter moments to church life, encouraging sharing and stories of engagement on social media, on the website and in the Communiqué.

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www.mcab.ca launched in February, providing a new home for our growing content. An important addition to the website is a page with information and resources on reporting misconduct in our church community.

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Important dates:
March 20-21 - MCA Annual Delegate Sessions and worship



July 2022 - Mennonite World Conference, Indonesia;
Rebecca Janzen is our *MCA Global*

Youth Summit delegate

July 2022 - MC Canada Gathering, Edmonton

race and faith. NEM Book clubs, dialogues and scriptural reasoning classes moved online, creating opportunities for people across the province to become involved. Online **Weekly Prayers** grew out of Pastors Council as a way to deepen our prayer lives and to uphold one another.

Generosity - Early uncertainty about how giving might be affected by the pandemic proved unfounded, as congregants demonstrated that their commitment to giving ran deeper than the passing of an offering plate. **Camp Valaqua** families donated children's registrations when summer programming was cancelled. The **Hike-a-Thon** far exceeded its previous donation record. Seven young adults received **student bursaries**, encouraging exploration of faith, education, career and life. Financial gifts to the **Calgary Chin Church** will enable them to move into their new church home soon. Witnessing this outpouring of support first-hand is one of the privileges of being involved in MCA.



Hope for the future

- We march on!
Faith Studies will take place this year, either online or in person, and we are confident that there will be a summer Camp program even if creative juices are tapped deep. Ongoing congregational support continues to be a priority, as congregations explore how to provide activities beyond worship with children, families, young adults and seniors. We pray that in 2021 the doors may be opened to respond to the invitation for teaching and fellowship with South Sudanese churches in Ethiopia.

I look to the year ahead with confidence. I see the significant things we are able to do as MCA and as part of our nationwide faith family, and celebrate being church together!

Brenda Tiessen-Wiens
Moderator

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "B. Tiessen-Wiens".

Mennonite Church British Columbia

The MENNONITE CHURCH BRITISH COLUMBIA (MCBC) Story to the Nationwide Regional Churches for 2020, Submitted by Garry Janzen, Executive Minister

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. Hebrews 12:2

A popular song that many of us have sung in our churches over the past number of years is, “Jesus, Be the Centre.” Over the past decade we have become familiar with the clear understanding of what it means to be an Anabaptist Christian from Palmer Becker’s writings: *Jesus is the Centre of our Faith, Community is the Centre of our Lives, and Reconciliation is the Centre of our Work*. We have come to embrace centredness as an image of our relationship to Jesus. MCBC has had a Restructuring Task Group that has been working over a period of two years to find a way to live into MCBC’s key themes. After a year of much theological discussion, the Task Group has moved to a centred model, and is suggesting Hebrews 12:2 as our MCBC theme verse, “Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.” Our ministry themes are: Cultivating Anabaptist Vision, Engaging God’s World, and Growing Community. The MCBC Leadership Board is proposing the outcomes of this restructuring process to our 2021 Annual Gathering in February for discernment and approval.

A task group was formed this year to figure out the sale of the property of the former Clearbrook Mennonite Church. The progress of this work will be presented to the 2021 MCBC Annual Gathering.

Ever since March of 2020, our congregations have been trying to figure out what they can and cannot do according to the COVID-19 government restrictions, and according to what we understand to be safe practices. The amazing piece about these restrictions is that they are like the Gospel – they ask us to stay six feet away from others and to wear masks in order to keep the other person safe. This is the Gospel in that we are being called to think of others first before thinking of ourselves.

We had the privilege of conducting our 2020 Annual Gathering in person at Cedar Valley Church in Mission on February 29th. It was one of the last things we did safely in person without masks on. We have converted our monthly pastors’ lunch gatherings into virtual gatherings on Zoom. We started weekly in the spring and have now gone to bi-weekly and monthly. Our congregations have learned so much about how to meet virtually. While most of us long for the day when we can meet in person, without masks, and give each other hugs, we have found meaningful ways to be the church in a pandemic. Even our Nationwide gatherings of the Executive Staff Group and the MC Canada Joint Council have managed as fully virtual meetings, but with a deep longing for the day when we will be in person again.

As we are now in a stage of extensive transmission of the COVID-19 virus, we will not be meeting in person until probably Easter 2021. This means that our MCBC Annual Gathering will be virtual on February 27th, 2021. We plan to keep it to three hours on Saturday morning. All the verbal presentations will be pre-recorded, and delegates will be expected to watch these ahead of time, as well as read the written reports. Our meeting will primarily be discussion in response to these reports and related decision making.

In the midst of all the pandemic restrictions, we have had an ordination, with a small group gathered in person and the rest of the participants gathered on Zoom, including family members from other parts of BC and the USA. We have also done pastoral searches, candidated and welcomed new pastors. We have not yet done an installation service, due to the latest restrictions on in person gatherings.

2020 will certainly be a year to remember – with God at work, and the church trying to figure out what engaging in God’s work looks like in the midst of a pandemic on a daily basis. Many good plans were just not able to happen. We have also learned some things that will serve us well into the future which we will keep.