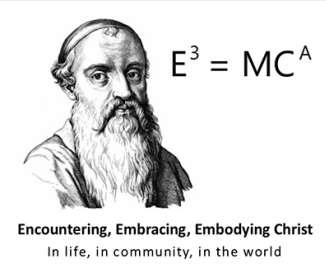




ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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.

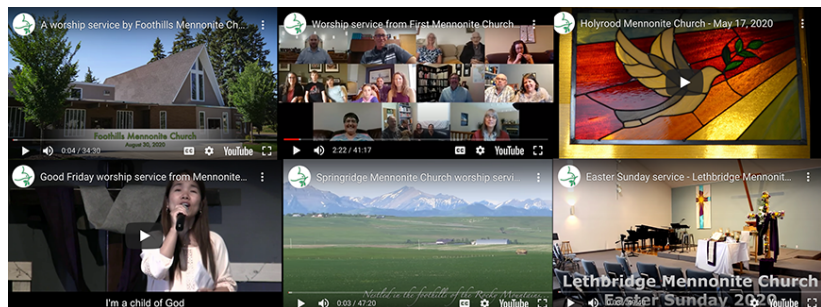
Other E3 resources include:

- 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,





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.

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.

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