



## Mennonite Church Saskatchewan 2024 Annual Report

Mennonite Church Saskatchewan (MC Sask) is a family of 21 congregations, united in our commitment to being Christ-centered and sent into the world. Together, we prayerfully support one another, collaborating in ministry with Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite World Conference, trusting that God's healing and hope flow through us to all the world.

***“For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.” – Romans 12:4-5***



These words from Romans guided us as we gathered for the Annual Delegate Session in Drake, hosted by North Star Mennonite with help from Pleasant Point and Grace Mennonite Churches. Under the theme **“Rekindling Relationships,”** and led by Doug Klassen, Executive Minister of Mennonite Church Canada, we experienced this spirit of renewal through worship, discussions, and fellowship.

**Youth:** Youth programming began with Kirsten Hamm-Epp completing the last few months of her time at MC Sask. Evan Bueckert has since taken on the Interim role and has been working at preparations for the coming Youth Gathering in Waterloo. The MC Sask youth events, or Mega Menno gatherings, have continued to engage youth with opportunities to learn, have fun, and explore their own relationship with God throughout this change in leadership.

**Church Engagement – Josh Wallace:** I've been privileged to serve MC Sask as Church Engagement Minister another year. The shape of this role continues to change as our congregations and our world continues to shift, both in joyful ways and in tragic ways.

This year my focus has gone primarily to

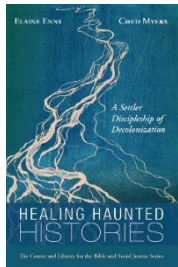
- Walking with congregations, pastors, and pastoral candidates in seasons of transition.
- Collaborating with the programs that report at Ministries. This year the crisis in Gaza has especially been front and center.
- Facilitating congregations in International Witness partnership and helping to organize visits from IW partners.
- Processing and shaping the new *Guiding Ministerial Leadership in our Churches* (GMLC) document with MC Canada's Congregational Leadership Ministers group.
- Continuing to support students as the Mennonite representative on the USask Faith Leaders Council.

**Transitions:** Looking back at 2024, we reflect on a busy and transitional year, shaped by challenges and opportunities. Leadership changes continued to define this season of growth, and we thank God for all who serve in so many ways with MC Sask, using their various gifts:

- In May, **Gary Peters** concluded his role as Interim Executive Minister, with **Len Rempel** stepping into the position in June.
- In August, **Kirsten Hamm-Epp** concluded her time as Youth Minister, with **Evan Bueckert** beginning as Interim Youth Minister in October.
- **Josh Wallace** completed his work as Congregational Engagement Minister on December 31, 2024.
- **Marianne Siemens** kept everything running smoothly as Office Administrator.

Transitions within our congregations also reflected God's ongoing work:

- Pastoral changes included departures, new beginnings, and retirements across several congregations. Highlights include:
  - **Emily Summach** transitioning from Langham Mennonite Fellowship to Mount Royal Mennonite
  - **Susanne Guenther-Loewen** ended her time at Nutana Park Mennonite.
  - **Don Froese** ended his time at Mount Royal Mennonite.
  - **Len Rempel** ended his time at Pleasant Point Mennonite and Warman Mennonite.
  - **Rodney Hennessey** ended his time at Grace Mennonite.
  - **Lois Siemens** retired from Bethany Manor
  - **Paul Matheson** retired from First Mennonite.
  - **Luke Bushman** was licensed toward ordination at Osler Mennonite in February.
  - **Garth and Claire Ewert Fisher** began as interim pastors at Rosthern Mennonite
  - **Lisi Schröttner** began at Wildwood Mennonite
  - **Andrea Enns-Gooding** began as Spiritual Care Coordinator at Bethany Manor



In November, we also explored the intersections of faith and history. Partnering with Canadian Mennonite University, we hosted the **Healing Haunted Histories** course with Elaine Enns and Ched Myers, fostering deep reflection on the ways our histories intersect with Indigenous stories.

Throughout the fall, the MC Sask Council led **Town Hall meetings** across the province to engage congregations in discussions on Youth Ministry, finances, volunteer positions, and connectedness; discussions that will continue with the final two meetings in Eyebrow and Swift Current in 2025.

The end of another year gives us the opportunity to look back on how God has led us as a church, through challenges and transitions. We are also invited to look forward, to be participants in this movement of God's spirit as we seek to live out our mission that God's healing and hope may flow through us to the world.

*Len Rempel, Evan Bueckert, and Marianne Siemens (MC Sask Staff)*