



## GREETINGS TO OUR FAMILY ACROSS CANADA!

### MCBC in 2024:

- Started a new congregation in Kelowna, Valley Road Church
- 23 Churches plus 1 developing congregation
- Celebrated many baptisms in our churches in 2024
- Our average weekly main worship attendance: 61 in 2023 - 67 in 2024
- Kids, youth, and young adults are around 14% of our total engaged constituents
- The average total of people engaged is roughly 131 if spread evenly between churches
- Average membership 90

### Other items of note:

- We have partnered with a parachurch ministry for health assessments and revitalization work.
- Our forward-leaning simplification and prioritization of building a people continues.
- Our Executive Minister's primary areas of focusing more energy around are:
  - **New Congregations and Revitalization**
  - **Pastoral and Church Leadership Support, Training, Development**
  - **Funding Long-term Vision (get out of structural deficit mode)**
  - **Centre-Set Approach to Unity: Jesus.**
- The proposed New Congregational Categories bylaw will be before our Regional Church delegates at our AGM. We are wrestling with creating more of a network orientation and less denominational, given the post-denominational realities of thriving churches across North America. Currently, we have one category called "recognized congregation" and given our unique tensions and history, this has not served us well when engaging in church planting or established churches looking for a network home. So the proposal includes creating two categories of non-member congregations:
  - **Developing congregation.** Which would be for churches being "birthed" and in their initial years of life. And,
  - **Exploring congregation.** Which is for those established churches looking for a Jesus-centred Anabaptistish network. This would require assent to the Mennonite World Conference Shared Convictions and then a mutually established process for discernment between that congregation and existing MCBC congregations over a period of up to 5 years.

### Our hope is that these open us more to the wider work of the Holy Spirit in new and other areas of the church.

- We continue to explore ways to encourage the calling and growth of pastors with our Columbia Bible College and other partnerships.
- Finally, our task groups around pressing local church social and spiritual issues are doing good work. Sign up for our regional newsletter at [mcbc.ca](http://mcbc.ca) for more details.