

Mennonite Church Manitoba Annual Report for 2025



Delegates from the 40 congregations of Mennonite Church Manitoba gathered at Grace Mennonite Church in Steinbach for our **2025 Gathering** February 28-March 1. Together we explored what it means to be a “Jesus-centred church,” based on Hebrews 12:1-2: “looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.” John D. Roth, professor emeritus of history at Goshen College and project director of MennoMedia’s Anabaptism at 500 initiative, was the plenary speaker.

Our regional **church visioning process**, Hope and Courage, continued through this year. Members of MCM’s board and staff met with focus groups from across our community of congregations, sifted through responses from online surveys, and examined leadership reports from congregational report books, all to address this question: what is God calling us to as a church at this time? The board has produced a report on the process and has offered a draft of a new Vision and Mission Statement for MCM for feedback this fall. A revised draft will come to congregational delegates for consideration at our 2026 Gathering, March 6-7, at Bethel Mennonite Church in Winnipeg.

Light the Fire, our **Camps with Meaning capital campaign**, continued in 2025 after a good start last year. Phase One of the campaign is complete, and we have nearly reached our goal in donations and pledges for Phase Two. Some facilities upgrades in this phase are anticipated to be completed in the coming year. We continue to invite people to invest in the faith formation, community outreach, leadership development, and hospitality Camps with Meaning provides, as we look ahead to the final two phases.

Our **summer camps** this year saw 533 children, youth, and adults with disabilities attend as campers. These camps were led by 90 summer staff and supported by nearly 70 volunteers. In 2025, Camps Assiniboia and Koinonia hosted over 170 guest groups representing over 7500 people.

Karen Schellenberg retired as Co-Director of Leadership Ministries early in the year, and Jeff Friesen stepped fully into the **Leadership Ministries** role. This year saw one pastor ordained, while three pastors received other forms of credentialing. Nine new pastors were installed in congregational ministry, while three retired from ministry. There were two pastors new to MCM in 2025.

A significant aspect of our shared **Mission Ministries** as a regional church is the connection between our northern communities and our southern congregations, and Director of Mission Engagement Melanie Neufeld has made this a priority. While some planned activities could not happen in 2025 due to northern wildfires, connections continue with Matheson Island, Cross Lake, Pauingassi, and Manigotagan. Another significant aspect of our Mission Ministries is helping to create and sustain connections between MCM congregations and our MC Canada International Witness companions around the world. Seventeen MCM congregations relate to companions in eight countries.

We launched a new program in 2025 called **Companion Congregations**, encouraging relationships across congregations by pairing up two MCM congregations, or an MCM and MC USA congregation, for mutual encouragement, prayer, and sharing. Eleven MCM congregations have signed up for this program: eight participating in the MCM option, and three in the international option.

There’s much more going on in Mennonite Church Manitoba! See www.mennochurch.mb.ca for more info, and sign up for our weekly updates and monthly newsletter by emailing office@mennochurch.mb.ca.