



... built together into a dwelling place for God...
Ephesians 2:19-22



MCEC 39th ANNUAL CHURCH GATHERING 2026

Transformed | Inspired | Called

Energize Congregations
in Worship, Discipleship and Mission

Ephesians 2:19-22

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Welcome & Meeting Logistics

Gathering as God's People



Ben Cassels
Moderator
moderator@mcec.ca

It is good to gather again as God's people in Mennonite Church Eastern Canada!

As we come together for Annual Church Gathering, our hope is that we and our congregations will be energized by our time together in worship, in workshops, in prayer, in story-telling, in decision-making and in new and renewed friendships.

Thank you for your ongoing support of MCEC. Whether it is through your prayers, words of encouragement, financial giving, volunteering or holding together our shared vision, it is your support that makes the ministry of MCEC possible.

One tangible result of this support is reflected in the Financial Update on page 42. Just two years ago, we were projecting a deficit of over \$400,000. Today, that number has been reduced to a fraction of what it was. Your financial generosity, patience and moral support through some major changes has got us here and we are continuing on the path towards renewed long-term sustainability.

One area that we welcome your prayerful and specific insight this year at ACG 2026 is in response to these three questions:

- 1. Looking Back with Joy:** Where have you seen God at work in MCEC – as an organization and in the relationships between congregations – in the last five years?
- 2. Looking Back with Longing:** What opportunities for shared ministry in the way of Jesus could have been more fully embraced together over the last five years?
- 3. Looking Ahead with Hope:** Where is the Holy Spirit stirring and leading MCEC – all our congregations together – in the next five years?

Your feedback will help shape the early stages of our next strategic plan, which will be developed over the next 12–18 months. These questions were first shared in March through MCEC Connect, our email newsletter. In this booklet you'll find a Response Sheet (pg 39), along with a QR code/link (below) to the online Feedback Form. The same questions will also appear in the ACG Evaluation Form. Thank you—your voice truly matters.

Thank you for your prayers, participation and wisdom as we gather for ACG 2026. I look forward to being the Church together with you.



[Click here for Feedback Form](#)

Complete the Feedback Form

1. Fill in the response sheet on page 39, and mail to MCEC or bring to Annual Church Gathering.
2. Follow QR code or link on left to Feedback Form.
3. Come prepared to discuss and share in AGM.

Rooted in Christ, Built Together



Anthony Siegrist
Executive Minister
executiveminister@mcec.ca

**Because of what
God has done in
Christ Jesus we
are no longer
strangers and
aliens to each
other.**

The Apostle Paul packs three distinct metaphors into just four verses in Ephesians 2:19-22. He is grasping for the right linguistic tools to describe the community of Jesus' followers. First, there is the metaphor of citizenship. Recent images come to mind when we read this: images of masked men snatching non-citizens from streets and stores and jamming them into vehicles, the non-citizen treated as a criminal and a danger. Paul's metaphor now carries more of its original power. When a nation can no longer welcome those that appear to not be citizens, the church does. Paul's church is our church. It is a church in which we are fellow citizens with the saints. This church honours a different kind of citizenship.

Later in verse 19 Paul shifts from a political metaphor to a domestic one. It's not just that we share a political status, we are also members of God's household. We share the same provider. Our fortunes are tied together. Our concerns are held in common. In verse 20 Paul changes metaphors again, speaking of a structure, a temple. Within our corporate ontology, relying on the stability of Christ Jesus, the apostles and the prophets, we find the dwelling place of God. We encounter God in our unity.

This passage has much to say to us. Our different backgrounds and stories are overridden by our common citizenship. Our different concerns are outweighed by the one household we share. Our search for God's presence is directed toward the shared space created by our leaning on Jesus.

In coming together for our Annual Church Gathering we will tell many stories, but the most significant story we will tell is this one: that because of what God has done in Christ Jesus we are no longer strangers and aliens to each other.

Much of what we do in our individual congregations and in our collective work as MCEC is an outworking of the dramatic claims Paul makes in Ephesians. Because we are all members of God's household, we work together to support pastors and lay leaders, to build connections between congregations, to serve our communities, to support new congregations, to tell the story of Jesus—the story of the foundation of our gospel-shaped community!

I am deeply grateful for all those who make the shared ministry of MCEC possible. Members of our committees and councils, our staff team, generous donors, expert advisors and congregations rich in faithfulness and creativity. Challenges notwithstanding, we are in a good position to continue to energize worship, discipleship and mission together.

In the fall of 2024, MCEC's staff team went through a major reorganization, including a significant reduction in our overall staff compliment. We are grateful for the patience you and your congregations have displayed as we worked through the implications of this process during 2025. In addition to the opportunity for financial stability this process initiated, it also created the Congregational Ministries Team (CMT), a new working group within the MCEC staff team that combined the previous mission and leadership departments. While our overall staff capacity is certainly reduced, the integration generated by the new CMT holds the potential for a better integrated regional church. Staff supporting new congregations and those supporting established congregations sit around the same table every week. I believe this deep collaboration and integration in our team will enhance those same features through MCEC.

As we gather, reflecting on our the past and considering the future, my prayer is that we will have a sense that together we are a "holy temple." Our church is more than a voluntary association, for through divine grace God is present in our midst.

So then, you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone; in him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

- Ephesians 2:19-22

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

2025 - 2026



JAMES BARBER
HAGERMAN MENNONITE
CHURCH



BRUCE BURGETZ
TORONTO UNITED
MENNONITE CHURCH



ELIOT CHANDLER BURNS
WATERLOO NORTH
MENNONITE CHURCH



BEN CASSELS
STEINMANN MENNONITE
CHURCH



FELIPE GONZALIA
FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH



MICHAEL REID
HAMILTON
MENNONITE CHURCH



KAYE REMPEL
STIRLING AVENUE
MENNONITE CHURCH



RICHARD STEINMANN
STEINMANN MENNONITE
CHURCH



Dedicated Leaders - Executive Council

Eliot Chandler Burns, Felipe Gonzalia, James Barber, Ben Cassels, Richard Steinmann, Michael Reid and Kaye Rempel making key decisions and thoughtfully guiding MCEC at an executive council meeting.

Missing from photo: Bruce Burgetz

MCEC IS A DIVERSE COMMUNITY

TRANSFORMED
BY THE LOVE OF GOD

INSPIRED
BY THE HOPE WE FIND IN JESUS

CALLED TO ACTION
BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We come together as a regional church to

- Energize congregations in worship, discipleship and mission
- Encourage leaders of hope, vision and transformation
- Embody God's reconciling ministry for all creation

Offering

This year, the offering from Annual Church Gathering and events supports the ministry work of MCEC by empowering Congregational Ministries.

Your generosity helps provide essential resources, intercultural competency training, provisional congregations, pastoral supports and services and support to congregations and leaders. Together, we energize congregations in worship, discipleship and mission. We encourage leaders of hope, vision and transformation, while embodying God's reconciling ministry for all creation.

Three ways to give:

1. E-transfer to financeoffice@mcec.ca
2. Online at www.mcec.ca/giving
3. Mail offering to
MCEC
201-50 Kent Ave.
Kitchener ON N2G 3R1
Attention: ACG

Thank you for your generosity!



www.mcec.ca/giving

ACG Events



Youth Ministry Leaders Lunch Meetup

Friday, April 24, 2026, noon
Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church
57 Stirling Ave. N., Kitchener, ON

You're invited to join Carrie Lehn, Stephen Kennedy and youth pastors, leaders and anyone working or volunteering in youth ministry for a relaxed lunchtime gathering. This is a chance to talk about youth ministry, share ideas and learn from one another.

Lunch will be provided. Please include any allergies when you RSVP to Carrie Lehn: carrie@ottawamennonite.ca.



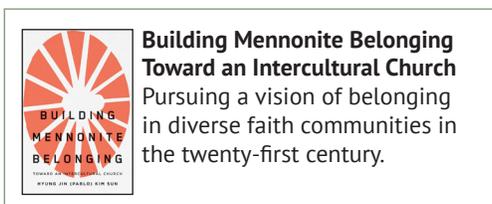
MCEC Pastors Gathering: A Conversation with Pablo Kim Sun

Friday, April 24, 2026, 7-8:30 p.m.
MCEC, 50 Kent Ave., Kitchener, ON

Join MCEC for an evening of intercultural dialogue with Pablo Kim Sun, author of *Building Mennonite Belonging*. We'll explore how faith communities can creatively and faithfully engage cultural, ethnic and racial diversity today. Pablo's book will be available for purchase. An offering will be received for those who wish to give. Register at mcec.ca/events.



Pablo Kim Sun



MCEC Intercultural Worship Service

Saturday, April 25, 2026, 7-9 p.m.
800 King St. E., Kitchener, ON
(First Mennonite & Shalom Worship & Healing Center)

Close your day in worship as several MCEC congregations lead us in a service that celebrates our shared faith and the beautiful diversity within our regional church. Through Scripture, prayer, music and testimony, we will gather as one body, giving thanks for the many gifts God has placed among us. Everyone is welcome to take part in this time of praise and reflection. A voluntary offering will be received for those who feel led to give.



Celebrating Anthony Siegrist's Ordination And God's Call on His Life

Together, we will joyfully celebrate the ordination of Anthony Siegrist, MCEC Executive Minister, giving thanks for the many gifts he shares, the vision and leadership he offers and God's unmistakable call on his life for this moment in our church's journey.



Our Meeting

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- All voices are important.
- We will bring a spirit of respect.
- We will not avoid tough issues and conversations.
- We will listen to learn and seek to understand.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- Identify yourself and your congregation/ organization before making remarks.
- Keep remarks brief to allow others time to speak.
- Direct your remarks to the moderator and speak for yourself only, unless specifically commissioned to speak for a group. If so, name the group.
- Clarify whether you support the motion or have a different view.
- Allow everyone who wants to speak an opportunity to do so before speaking a second time to the same motion. Please wait until all voices have been heard before requesting to speak again.

SCHEDULE

8:30 AM	Registration
9:00	Opening Gathering Fellowship Hall
9:45 & 11:00	Workshop Sessions 1 & 2 As Indicated
12:00 NOON	Lunch & Conversation Fellowship Hall
1:30 PM	Business Session Fellowship Hall
4:00	Workshop Session 3 As Indicated
5:00	Closing Worship Fellowship Hall

Delegate Action

- Minutes of 2025 Annual Church Gathering (pg 25)
- Executive Council Actions 2025-2026 (pg 32)
- Audited Financial Statements FYE January 2026 ([Audited Statements Online](#) / Internal Statements pg 43)
- Appointment of Financial Auditor
- MCEC Spending Plan 2026-2027 (pg 48)
- MCEC Bylaw Updates (pg 34)
- Slate of Volunteers 2026-2027 (pg 36)

LOGISTICS

IMPORTANT DETAILS



DELEGATES - HOW MANY?

Each congregation can register delegates and non-delegate attendees. Delegates, as representatives of their congregation, vote on motions.

- Full Member Congregation: 3 delegates plus a youth delegate.
- Provisional Congregation: 2 delegates plus a youth delegate.
- If your congregation has more than 150 members, elect one additional delegate for each additional 50 members.



FIRST AID

St. John Ambulance will be on site for any emergencies.



NAME TAGS

Pick up your name tag at registration. At the end of our Gathering, please help us recycle the name tag holders. Remove the white name tag and leave the badge holder and lanyard on the table.



PARTNER DISPLAYS

Please visit the display areas. There are many amazing partners in ministry throughout MCEC. Not only are they partners, but they also sponsored our gathering. We are grateful.



PRAYER

Mennonite Spiritual Directors of Eastern Canada have formed a prayer circle and will be covering our weekend in prayer.



WIFI @ STEINMANN

Password: hymns2sing
We invite you to download documents to your device prior to event. This will allow our French family strong access to the internet for French interpretation.



ENVIRONMENTAL KINDNESS

- Bring your reusable mug or water bottle..
- Consider carpooling.



EVALUATION FORMS

An evaluation form will arrive by email. We appreciate if you would take a few moments to complete the evaluation.



FRENCH INTERPRETATION

French language interpretation will be available through an AI service. Instructions and a link will be provided.



PARLIAMENTARIAN

A parliamentarian advises us on procedural process when necessary and will be introduced at our Gathering.



PHOTOS

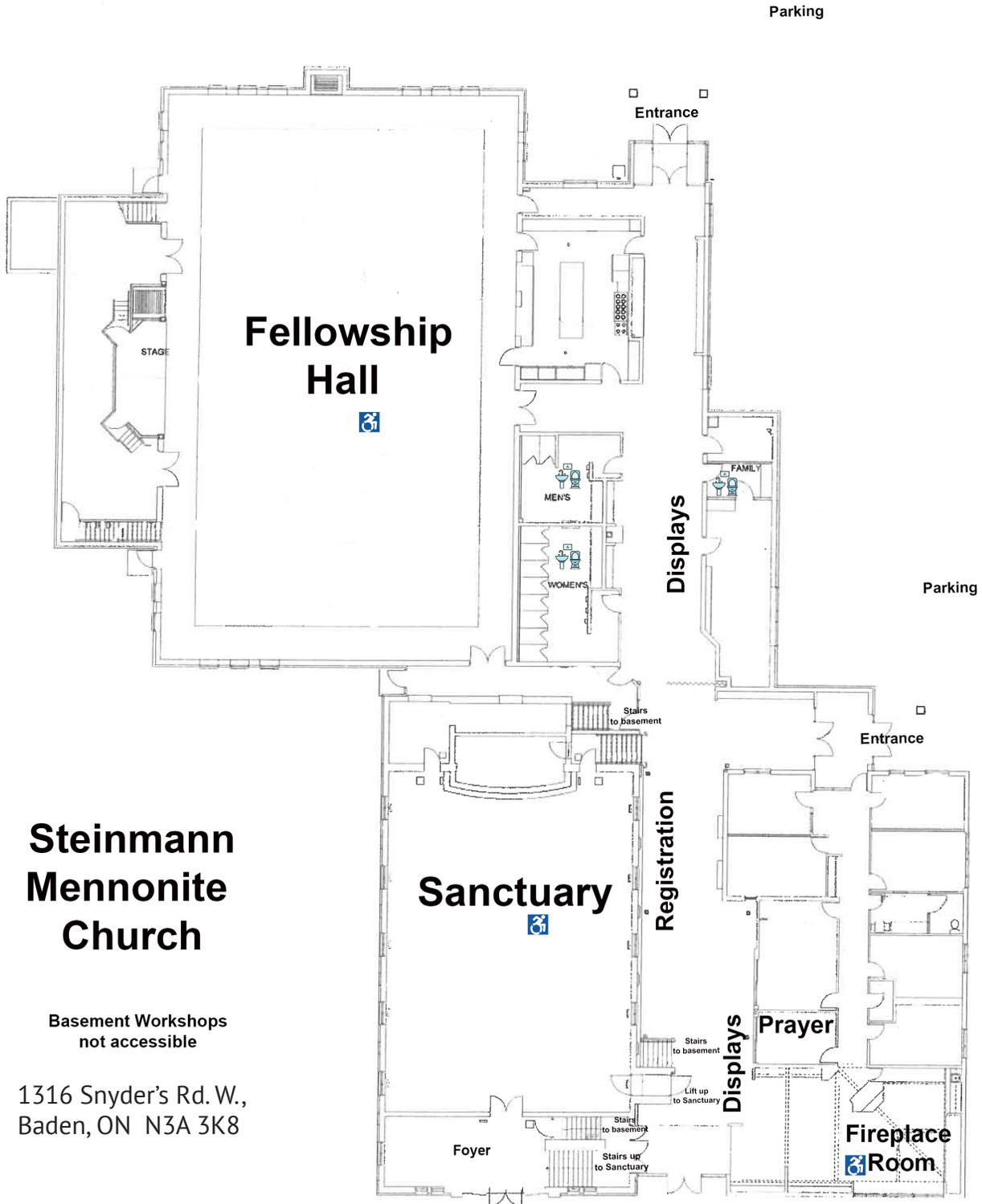
Photos will be taken at the Annual Church Gathering.



PRE-ACG FINANCIAL CALL

An online financial call will be held on Wednesday, April 15, 2026 from 7-8 p.m. More information and register at www.mcec.ca/events.

Location Layout



Steinmann Mennonite Church

Basement Workshops not accessible

1316 Snyder's Rd. W.,
Baden, ON N3A 3K8

Workshops

10:00 a.m.

Have You Ever Wondered What It's Like to be a Teenager Today?

Location: 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary / 4:00 p.m. Basement Long Room

- Stephen Kennedy, Pastor, Avon Church
- Carrie Lehn, Pastor, Ottawa Mennonite Church

Join Carrie and Stephen as we hear from students at Avon and Ottawa Mennonite churches sharing honest insight into life as a teenager today. Through their voices, we'll explore the pressures, questions and hopes shaping young people's lives and reflect on how our churches can respond with care, creativity and imagination.

2 x



Stephen Kennedy



Carrie Lehn

Faith and Fundraising: How our Spiritual Heritage Could Help us Meet the Budget

Location: Fellowship Hall

- Fred Martin, Former Director of Advancement at Conrad Grebel

This workshop will help us tap into the Anabaptist roots that grew a faith heritage of generosity and mutual support. With this background we will examine how our congregations can better communicate the financial needs of God's commonwealth and motivate inspired generosity. Come ready to share your congregation's challenges and success stories.



Fred Martin

Contracts and Covenants: Strengthening the Pastor Congregation Relationship

Location: Fireplace Room

- Marilyn Rudy-Froese, MCEC Leadership Minister

Ministry is rooted in covenant, trust and accountability, yet shaped by formal agreements between pastor and congregation. Balancing spiritual calling with employment expectations can be challenging. Together, through shared stories and conversation, we'll explore practices that strengthen this relationship and consider how contracts can be honoured in a covenantal spirit.



Marilyn Rudy-Froese

Workshops

10:00 a.m. con't



Micah Peters Unrau

What's a Regional Church? Une église régionale, qu'est-ce que c'est?



Location: Basement Long Room

- Micah Peters Unrau, MCEC Church Engagement Associate

This bilingual workshop will (re-)introduce MCEC in the big picture: biblical ideas that inspire our collaboration, the story of how MCEC came together and an overview of our present-day ministries as a regional church. If your congregation has recently joined MCEC, or you just want to refresh your knowledge of this regional faith family, check it out!

Cet atelier bilingue (ré)introduira l'EMEC dans son ensemble : Des idées bibliques qui nous inspirent de collaborer, l'histoire de comment l'EMEC s'est formée et un aperçu de nos ministères d'aujourd'hui en tant qu'église régionale. Si votre congrégation vient de se joindre à l'EMEC ou vous voulez simplement rafraîchir vos connaissances de cette famille de foi régionale, venez voir!



Fanosie Legesse

Every Tribe's Song: Embracing Cultural Diversity in Worship

Location: Basement 005

- Fanosie Legesse, MCEC Intercultural Minister

This interactive workshop explores how culture shapes Christian worship and why diverse styles matter. Through shared experiences and discussion, participants will reflect on worship as an offering to God and learn to approach varied expressions with humility and openness, expanding creativity in music, movement and other forms of praise.



Cathrin van Sintern-Dick

11:00 a.m.

Safer Together: Exploring the Purpose and Promise of Safe Church Policies



Location: 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary ENGLISH

4:00 p.m. Fireplace Room FRENCH 

- Cathrin van Sintern-Dick, MCEC Regional Minister

- Jean Claude Nkundwa, MCEC Regional Minister

Join Regional Ministers Cathrin and Jean Claude as we explore the purpose and everyday relevance of Safe Church policies within our congregations, from infancy through older adulthood. We will reflect together on how these practices help create safer environments for those who are most vulnerable and how they guide us in responding to harm with care, accountability and hope. This workshop invites honest conversation: your experiences, concerns and insights will help shape our shared learning as we consider what next steps in conflict resolution, education and community support might look like across MCEC.



Jean Claude Nkundwa

Workshops

11:00 a.m. con't

Global Companions in Action: Learning from PeaceBuilders Community and the Malipayon Peace Hub

Location: Fellowship Hall

- Jeanette Hanson, MC Canada International Witness Director

PeaceBuilders Community Inc. (PBCI) in the Philippines is growing in relationship with the church and in the community. The Malipayon Peace Hub is bustling with activity. Come to hear how MCEC congregations both laid the groundwork and can reap the benefits of continued relationship and engagement with these global companions.



Jeanette Hanson

The Ubuntu Dialogues

Location: Fireplace Room ENGLISH AND FRENCH

- Roberson Mbayamvula, Pastor, Hagerman and Rouge Valley Mennonite Churches



Ubuntu means “I am because we are”—a reminder that our lives, joys, wounds and hopes are woven together. This bilingual workshop brings African theology into conversation with Canadian and Mennonite contexts, exploring intercultural dialogue, identity and lived faith. Together, we’ll reflect on belonging, shared burdens and the wisdom of Ubuntu.



Roberson Mbayamvula

Gather Around Scripture: An Invitation to Dynamic Bible Study

Location: 11:00 a.m. Basement Long Room / 4:00 p.m. Sanctuary

- Derek Suderman, Conrad Grebel University College

- John Borthwick, Knox College

2 x

If Bible study has ever felt discouraging—whether conversations are unbalanced, past experiences were painful or Scripture feels hard to engage—you’re not alone. Join Derek and John to explore fresh possibilities through shared reflection and a short study. Discover practical tools for meaningful engagement and learn about a new group Bible study initiative.



Derek Suderman



John Borthwick

Workshops

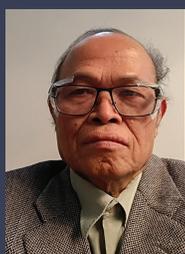
11:00 a.m. con't



Micah Peters Unrau



Kathryn Cressman



Chinda Kommala



Kapilan Savarithum

Preaching Sermons, Making Tents: A Panel on Multivocational Ministry

Location: Basement 005

Facilitator: Micah Peters Unrau, MCEC Church Engagement Associate
Panelists:

- Kathryn Cressman, Pastor, Hillcrest Mennonite Church
- Chinda Kommala, Pastor, Lao Canadian Evangelical Mennonite Church
- Kapilan Savarithum, Pastor, Markham Christian Worship Centre

Popular imagination often pictures pastoral ministry as a full-time role dedicated entirely to one congregation. In reality, a growing number of pastors now serve in multiple vocational spheres—holding part-time positions, pursuing additional employment or offering their ministry on a volunteer basis. This multi-vocational reality is increasingly common across MCEC and invites both fresh opportunities and new questions for pastors and congregations alike.

What does ministry look like when a pastor balances church leadership with other forms of work? How does it shape rhythms of life, spiritual well-being and expectations around availability and leadership? And how can congregations adjust their own assumptions, structures and shared responsibilities to support healthy ministry in this model?

This panel brings together three multi-vocational MCEC pastors who will reflect honestly on their experiences—the joys, challenges, surprises and practical strategies they've discovered along the way. They will share how their additional vocations influence their ministry, how congregational relationships evolve and where they have found resilience, creativity and grace.

Whether you are learning about multi-vocational ministry for the first time, discerning your own call or seeking to support pastoral leadership in your congregation, you are invited to bring your curiosity and questions to this thoughtful and engaging conversation.

Meet Kathryn Cressman

Kathryn Cressman serves as a part time pastor at Hillcrest Mennonite Church. Before returning to university to complete her Masters of Theological Studies, Kathryn was a stay-at-home mom raising children on her family's dairy farm. This role continues as she divides her time between parenting and pastoring.

Meet Chinda Kommala

Chinda Kommala is a pastor at Lao Canadian Evangelical Mennonite Church in Toronto. He says, "I want to thank God for giving me the opportunity and strength to serve Him and at the same time God has blessed me to work as a tool maker. I love to plant churches and out reach to the Lao people and beyond."

Meet Kapilan Savarithum

Kapilan Savarithum is pastor at the Markham Christian Worship Centre, a Tamil-speaking church whose congregants are mainly from Sri Lanka. His educational background is in computer networking and works full-time outside the church.

Workshops

4:00 p.m.

Gather Around Scripture: An Invitation to Dynamic Bible Study

Location: Sanctuary

- Derek Suderman, Conrad Grebel University College
- John Borthwick, Knox College

2 x

If Bible study has ever felt discouraging—whether conversations are unbalanced, past experiences were painful or Scripture feels hard to engage—you're not alone. Join Derek and John to explore fresh possibilities through shared reflection and a short study. Discover practical tools for meaningful engagement and learn about a new group Bible study initiative.



Derek Suderman



John Borthwick

Beginning/Revitalizing Faithful Communities

Location: Fellowship Hall

- Doug Klassen, Mennonite Church Canada Executive Minister

Where is God inviting new life to emerge in our congregations and neighbourhoods? This workshop invites pastors and lay leaders in MCEC to explore beginning and/or revitalizing faith communities in ways that reflect the deep character of our Anabaptist/Mennonite faith and offer an openness to new expressions of where the Spirit might be leading.



Doug Klassen

Safer Together: Exploring the Purpose and Promise of Safe Church Policies

Location: Fireplace Room FRENCH

- Cathrin van Sintern-Dick, MCEC Regional Minister
- Jean Claude Nkundwa, MCEC Regional Minister

FR

2 x

Join Regional Ministers Cathrin and Jean Claude as we explore the purpose and everyday relevance of Safe Church policies within our congregations, from infancy through older adulthood. We will reflect together on how these practices help create safer environments for those who are most vulnerable and how they guide us in responding to harm with care, accountability and hope. This workshop invites honest conversation: your experiences, concerns and insights will help shape our shared learning as we consider what next steps in conflict resolution, education and community support might look like across MCEC.



Cathrin van Sintern-Dick



Jean Claude Nkundwa

Workshops

4:00 p.m. con't



Stephen Kennedy



Carrie Lehn

Have You Ever Wondered What It's Like to be a Teenager Today?

Location: Basement Long Room

- Stephen Kennedy, Pastor, Avon Church

- Carrie Lehn, Pastor, Ottawa Mennonite Church

2 x

Join Carrie and Stephen as we hear from students at Avon and Ottawa Mennonite churches sharing honest insight into life as a teenager today. Through their voices, we'll explore the pressures, questions and hopes shaping young people's lives and reflect on how our churches can respond with care, creativity and imagination.



Laurie Castello

Behind the Scenes: Church Admin Roundtable

Location: Basement 005

- Laurie Castello, MCEC Operations and Finance Director

Are you involved in church administration? Ever wonder how other administrators are handling their role in this age of remote work, shifting congregational structures and AI? Come join this discussion session for a chance to connect with fellow administrators and reflect on the past, present and future of church admin.



Meeting Documents



Motions

MINUTES OF 2025 MCEC ANNUAL CHURCH GATHERING (pg 25)

That we accept the minutes of the 38th annual meeting of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, held April 26, 2025.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ACTIONS 2025-2026 (pg 32)

That we approve all actions taken by the MCEC Executive Council for the year April 26, 2025 - April 25, 2026.

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FYE JANUARY 2026

([Audited Statements online](#) / Internal Statements pg 43)

That we accept the audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2026.

FINANCIAL AUDITOR

That we appoint E.M. Simon CPA Professional Corporation as auditors for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2027.

MCEC SPENDING PLAN 2026-2027 (pg 48)

That we accept the 2026 - 2027 spending plan as presented.

MCEC BYLAW UPDATES (pg 34)

That MCEC's "General Operating Bylaw No. 4" be amended as presented.

SLATE 2026-2027 (pg 36)

That we accept the 2026 - 2027 slate as presented.



**Minutes of MCEC's 38th Annual Church Gathering
Online Business Meeting
Saturday, April 26, 2025
10:00 am**

1. OPENING WELCOME

Translation announcement – Michel Monette, Regional Minister

Welcome – Ben Cassels, MCEC Moderator, and Anthony Siegrist, Executive Minister, welcomed everyone online. Ben introduced Kyle Gingrich as the Parliamentarian.

Michael Pahl, Executive Minister of Mennonite Church Manitoba, brought greetings. He described Mennonite Church Manitoba's ministry areas, including camps, congregational health, and international missions. He emphasized shared identity in Mennonite Church Canada: "We are members of one another." Michael offered an opening prayer invoking humility, wisdom, forgiveness, and community.

Anthony Siegrist, MCEC Executive Minister, introduced the theme of Called to Action by the Power of the Holy Spirit. Anthony highlighted the ministry of reconciliation as:

- Holy: Rooted in the Spirit, not ideology;
- Holistic: reconciliation with God, creation, and each other;
- Humble: Marked not by power, but by the fruit of the Spirit.

He referred to Galatians 5: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control and encouraged unity in diversity across congregations.

2. BUSINESS AND MOTIONS

Ben announced that the gathering officially met quorum with a total of 158 people registered, representing 71 of 106 member congregations.

Ben explained the voting privileges and procedures.

3. ACCEPTANCE OF 2024 ACG MINUTES

Felipe Gonzalia, Secretary of the Executive Council, presented the minutes of the 2024 Annual Church Gathering.

An error was noted in the minutes and corrected.

Motion: On behalf of the Executive Council, Felipe Gonzalia moved, and Sue Carr, The Meeting Place, seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the 37th annual meeting of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, held April 26 and April 27, 2024 and June 13, 2024. Carried.

89 votes cast: 96% voted in favour

4. ACCEPTANCE OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ACTIONS for 2024 - 2025

Felipe Gonzalia, Secretary of the Executive Council, presented actions taken by the MCEC Executive Council for the year May 2024 to April 2025.

Motion: On behalf of the Executive Council, Felipe Gonzalia moved and Kendall Jongejan Harder, Shantz Mennonite Church, seconded the motion to approve all actions taken by the MCEC Executive Council for the year May 2024 to April 2025. Carried.

92 votes cast: 99% voted in favour

Ben welcomed five new and transitioning congregations to MCEC.

- Christ Kingdom Reformed Church – Provisional Membership
- Victory Christ's Ambassadors Church – Provisional Membership
- Maison de la Grâce Church – Provisional Membership
- Kitchener Emmanuel Church – Full Membership
- Oromo Evangelical Church of Ottawa – Full Membership

5. ACCEPTANCE OF YE2025 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (2024-2025)

Laurie Castello, MCEC Operations and Finance Director, presented YE2025 financial statements.

- Revenues for FYE25 totalled \$2,165,020.
- Partner and Operating Expenses came to \$2,466,510.
- The resulting Operating Fund deficit was less than budgeted at (\$301,490) and was covered by a transfer from the Faithful Steward Fund.
- Revenues included higher interest income than was budgeted, as well as individual and church giving.
- It was noted that MCEC constituents donated a substantial \$347,972 to MC Canada's International Witness program. This money comes directly to MCEC from our constituents and is receipted by us. Then all of it goes directly to MC Canada in support of Anabaptist/Mennonite faith communities in the wider world.
- Church Giving represents a significant portion of our revenues each year.
- At last year's ACG, we reported a FYE24 decline in church giving of \$170,994 or 11%.
- And while FYE25 Church Giving came in \$142,462 less than was budgeted, it was noted that the actual decline in giving was \$43,991 or 5% year over year.
- We celebrate this improved result!
- Expenditures came in \$136,723 lower than budgeted.
- Overall, underspending was part of a commitment of the staff to do more with less. This has also led us to look closely at planned expenditures for the coming year.
- A brief presentation of internally and externally restricted funds was made.
- Laurie expressed her appreciation for Sharon Schwartzenruber, MCEC's Accountant, for the significant contribution she has made to our finance work this year.
- In summary, we are grateful to the constituency for their ongoing support of MCEC's work to energize congregations, encourage leaders, and embody God's reconciling ministry.

Motion: On behalf of the Executive Council, Rich Steinmann moved and Craig Frere, Leamington United Mennonite Church, seconded the motion to approve the Audited Financial Statements for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2025 as presented. Carried.

87 votes cast: 100% voted in favour

6. AUDITOR APPOINTMENT FOR YE2026

Steph (Eliot) Chandler Burns, Assistant Moderator, presented the auditor for fiscal YE2026.

Motion: On behalf of the Executive Council, Rich Steinmann moved, and Nancy Frey, Listowel Mennonite Church, seconded the motion to appoint E.M. Simon CPA Professional Corporation as auditors for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2026. Carried.

90 votes cast: 98% voted in favour

7. ACCEPTANCE OF BUDGET/SPENDING YE2026

Ben explained the work of the staff and the Executive Council over the past year in bringing this year's budget in response to the direction delegates provided at the ACG 2024.

- Reduced staffing levels by approximately 1/3;
- Reduced funding to partner ministries by 1/3;
- Clear communication of MCEC's financial needs resulted in a smaller decline in giving to MCEC.

Ben thanked the constituents for their continued support and trust.

The 2025-2026 spending plan was presented by MCEC's Operations and Finance Director, Laurie Castello. Some key points to note regarding the spending include:

- The Operating Fund Spending Plan statement is being presented in a new way that we hope will serve us better going forward.
 - All monies coming into the Operating Fund are now clearly notated in the top two sections of the statement: Core Revenues and Additional Revenues.
 - Both the expense and the revenue for Relational Witness have been shown in Core Revenues to reflect the fact that we receive these monies but they do not in any material way contribute to our Operating Fund.
 - Partner Ministries disbursements are now included as an expense line under either Executive Ministry or Congregational Ministries.
 - All the expense numbers from Mission, Leadership, and Congregational Resourcing have been combined together to form a FYE25 comparison with Congregational Ministries in FYE26.
- Anticipated revenues are purposely conservative at \$1,992,270.
- Under Core Revenues FYE26:
 - Individual and Estate giving numbers are always a bit of a guesstimate!
 - Church Giving numbers have been budgeted with a further 5% drop in giving.
 - This is not a message of defeat but rather a recognition that there are congregations among us who are struggling.
 - It is also an opportunity and a challenge to congregations who can help us! Please consider what your congregation can do this year to help MCEC move the needle on this number.

- The Interest line in our Core Revenues must change. Interest from the now closed Legacy Initiatives Fund had been brought into the Operating Fund annually. The remaining LiF monies are now part of the Faithful Legacy Fund and that interest does not come into the Operating Fund directly.
- Taken all together Core Revenues for FYE26 are projected to decline by 12% or \$213,762.
- While this is sobering, these are conservative numbers and there is a lot of opportunity to improve them!
- Additional Revenues FYE26:
 - Some details were provided regarding the additional monies that come into the Operating Fund each year. Typically, these monies were reflected in such a way as to offset spending in various expense schedules. Over time this led to some confusion and hopefully bringing these various sources of revenue to the top of our statements brings some clarity.
 - Details around Program Donations, Fund Transfers, and Program Fees, Registrations, and Recoveries were provided.
 - Of note was a generous gift from the Hawkesville congregation as they closed and sold their building. The 15% transfer into Operating Fund in FYE26 is \$144,443 - an amount made higher by Hawkesville's gift!
 - Faithful Legacy Fund policy allows for a 5% transfer to Operations each year. The transfer is \$152,025.
- Operating Fund Expenditures FYE26:
 - There was a presentation of "What we will and we will not be doing" with this Spending Plan.
 - Executive Ministry expenses show an increase in travel to churches, no EM search this year! And a smaller disbursement to MC Canada based on our FYE25 results.
 - Congregational Ministries show a significant decrease in spending. There will be lots of work as an integrated team: nurturing leaders and pastors, walking alongside congregations through seasons of growth, transition and renewal, providing cluster support, pastors retreat, pastoral searches, installations, licensing and ordination, growing together as an intercultural church, preaching and teaching, and supporting our provisional congregations.
 - We have reduced our staff complement by 5 persons.
 - We have reduced our Partner Ministry support by one third.
 - There will be a reduction in travel and more meetings on Zoom.
 - There will not be a \$30K transfer from Operating Fund to Leadership Formation Fund.
 - The TiM program will move to MC Canada.
 - In Operations we will work with a new IT service provider to fully migrate our systems to the Cloud. We will begin a review of MCEC Policy documents.
 - We anticipate lower audit and legal expenses.
 - There is no in-person ACG this year.
- In conclusion:
 - The deficit in FYE24 was (\$432,278) and was covered by the Faithful Steward Fund. This was 19% greater than FYE23.
 - The deficit in FYE25 was (\$301,490) and was covered by the Faithful Steward Fund. This was 30% less than FYE24.

- The proposed FYE26 deficit is (\$175,753) and will be covered by the Faithful Legacy Fund. This is 42% less than FYE25.
- We have done some very hard work in the last year to move the needle on our deficit spending and we are pleased to present this Spending Plan.

Motion: On behalf of the Executive Council, Rich Steinmann moved, and Paul Mo, Markham Chinese Mennonite Church, seconded the motion to accept the 2025-2026 spending plan as presented. Carried. 83 votes cast: 96% voted in favour

Opportunity was given to delegates to make observations and ask questions on the 2025-2026 spending plan.

- Leah Harder, Community Mennonite Church of Stouffville, asked why Fraser Lake Camp is not listed separately as a partner ministry. MCEC contributes to Willowgrove, which includes Fraser Lake. Division of funds between Willowgrove and Fraser Lake is at the discretion of their board. The partner ministry list remains consistent with previous years. The only change is a reduction in total funding, not in listed partners. MCEC will note this concern when we visit the list of ministry partners in the future.
- Marcus Shantz, Conrad Grebel University College, asked if MCEC can provide anonymized data about church givings (e.g., average, median, top contributors). This is something we can do and will be helpful.
- Greg Yantzi, Nith Valley Mennonite Church, asked how MCEC determines the amount of funds for each partner ministry. Why are some (like MC Canada) higher, while others (e.g., MWC) are lower? MCEC has a shared revenue agreement with MC Canada. Giving is based on the previous year's income. Mennonite World Conference gifts are not received through us. The number on the spending plan reflects a decision made at MCEC as a partner ministry organization. Historical giving patterns have shaped current allocations. MCEC recognizes the need to re-evaluate partner relationships and funding rationale more systematically.
- Peter Haresnape, Toronto United Mennonite Church, wanted to know how much we are saving in dollars by having ACG online this year. Estimated savings are around \$30,000, possibly more if factoring in staff costs required for in-person events.
- James Bugden, Mennonite Fellowship of Montreal, asked given the auditor's previous concern over deficits, what is the timeline for eliminating the deficit and managing the burn rate? The projected deficit is \$175,000 – an improvement from last year. Executive Council expects upcoming developments (within 12-24 months) may help to further reduce the deficit. Optimistically aiming to close the deficit within 12 months, contingent on estate revenue and stable giving. Status quo revenue alone may nearly balance the budget. Approximately \$3 million is available as reserves; the current deficit level is manageable but a continued priority.

8. ACCEPTANCE OF VOLUNTEER SLATE

Charleen Jongejan Harder, Gift Discernment Committee Chair, presented the proposed slate of volunteers. She thanked the numerous hours of volunteer service. She highlighted the key changes in the slate.

Motion: Charleen Jongejan Harder moved, and Leah Harder, Community Mennonite Church of Stouffville, seconded the motion to accept the 2025-2026 slate as presented. Carried. 79 votes cast: 100% voted in favour

Andy Brubacher Kaethler, Ottawa Mennonite Church, noted his name missing from the Leadership Council list. It was confirmed to be an omission and will be corrected.

Opportunity was given to delegates to make observations and ask questions on the volunteer slate.

- Leah Harder, Community Mennonite Church of Stouffville, asked how MCEC delegates are selected for MC Canada Gathering? A formula comes from MC Canada. Delegates include past delegates, current council/committee members, and staff. We consider geography, church size, pastoral/lay representation, gender, and cultural diversity.

9. DELEGATE QUESTION RESPONSES

MCEC is a network of 106 churches, supported by a central team of councils and staff working together toward our shared mission. In such a diverse community, strong connections matter. What do meaningful connections – with other churches and our councils and staff – look and feel like to you?

- Lorrie Shantz, Waterloo North Mennonite Church: shared in chat: condolences and support were expressed between congregations regarding the experience of grief and loss.
- Lorrie Shantz, Waterloo North Mennonite Church: I wondered if there might be a way to do church exchanges where we send a group from one church to visit another.
- Nancy Frey, Listowel Mennonite Church: Having a shared mission that we are carrying together makes for feeling of belonging – we are doing something important together.
- Paul Mo, Markham Chinese Mennonite Church: To a certain extent, the pastor(s) is not working alone. We can get the support of advice when we face challenges in the midst of ministry.
- Maciel Hernandez, Toronto Mennonite New Life Church: We feel humbly honoured to be included and to know beautiful souls that help us to continue on the race that has been entrusted to each one of us.
- Leah Harder, Community Mennonite Church of Stouffville: We have an annual GTA worship and gathering at Willowgrove, complete with a wide diversity of congregations, worship styles, etc. It helps us feel connected to our wider community.
- Randy Lepp, Leamington United Mennonite Church: At the gathering last year, a few congregations had two minute videos introducing their congregations. It would be great if there was a “bank” of videos we could show to our congregation to get to know each other.
- Karen Sheil, Harrow Mennonite Church: A clear understanding of who does what in the office would be helpful so I know to whom to direct my question.
- Mike DeHaan, Danforth Mennonite Church: One type of connection comes from working on a joint project with one or more partners. Another is getting together for joint worship.
- Brian Quan, Toronto Chinese Mennonite Church: Positive congregational connections when churches and congregations gather for events in our local clusters. Positive staff/councils connections when they are able to preach/speak at our congregations. Idea: invite congregations to share/produce a 30-second video profile with our family.

- Lorrie Shantz, Waterloo North Mennonite Church: The invitation to pray for a specific MCEC church each week has been meaningful.
- Howard Wideman, Waters Mennonite Church: As a small church in Northern ON, our connections and visible support from MCEC feel pretty minimal. As we do not have a pastor, we are not connected to inter-pastoral resources. Also, we have not had a follow-up with the proposed realignment of church clusters since the initial meeting.
- Michael Reid, Hamilton Mennonite Church/Executive Council: I really appreciate a group of churches that are working, encouraging, learning together to communicate the good news message of Jesus Christ to this generation.
- Patricia Friesen, Mennonite Fellowship of Montreal: As someone from a church in the hinterland of Quebec, I appreciate the link to the larger church – ministry resources, shared journey of faith, etc.

10. CLOSING AND PRAYER

Ben Cassels thanked the MCEC staff and all volunteers. Ben asked everyone to complete the emailed feedback form and encouraged them to register for the Mennonite Church Canada Gathering in Kitchener, July 2-5.

Steph (Eliot) Chandler Burns closed with a prayer.

11. ADJOURNED 12:07 pm

Executive Council Actions

May 20, 2025

- a. Approved the minutes of March 18, 2025 meeting with a minor correction.
- b. Approved minutes of Executive Council actions between meetings:
 - new congregations;
 - end of probationary status of Executive Minister;
 - new Executive Council member.

June 25, 2025

- a. Approved in principle the ACG 2026 proposal as presented, with operational specifics entrusted to staff and in coordination with Executive Council as appropriate.

September 16, 2025

- a. Approved the minutes of Annual Church Gathering April 26, 2025 with minor corrections.
- b. Approved the minutes of May 20, 2025 meeting with minor corrections.
- c. Approved the minutes of June 25, 2025 meeting with minor corrections.
- d. Approved the recommendation to proceed with the 50 Kent office space renovation as presented.
- e. Approved the staff to renegotiate MCEC's rental agreement with MCCO and to request the repayment of the \$1.425M loan.
- f. Approved to deposit MCCO loan monies received into the Faithful Legacy Fund.

- g. Approved that Laurie Castello, Operations and Finance Director, be authorized to complete the transfer of 120 Duluth Ave East in Montreal to Mennonite Fellowship of Montreal (MFM) for one dollar (\$1). The conditions of the transfer would be as follows:
 - Asset retention would need to remain with MFM. MFM would need to be the owner of the property and not transfer that asset to anyone else.
 - A sale of the property would need to preserve the assets in another property owned by MFM. Any other arrangement would need to be discussed in advance with MCEC.
 - MFM would agree to amend its constitution or corporate by-laws to include a "dissolution clause" that would state that if MFM ever dissolves, its corporate assets would be returned to MCEC.

November 18, 2025

- a. Approved the minutes of September 16, 2025 with minor corrections.
- b. Approved the motion to accept the following Finance Policies as presented:
 - 01 Finances, from MCEC By-Law #4
 - 02 Financial Guidelines
 - 04 Policy: Fundraising
 - 05 Policy: Comprehensive Fund Policies pertaining to Mission and Leadership still need to be adjusted in accordance with changes that may be made to these Councils after which those policies will come back to Executive Council for approval.
 - 06.1 Policy: Investment
 - 06.2 Policy: Investment Committee Terms of Reference
 - 06.3 Policy: Investment – Faithful Legacy Fund
 - 07 Policy: Insurance
 - 08 Policy: Receipt/Payment of Invoices for Goods/Services

- 09 Policy: Volunteer Expense Claims
 - 10 Policy: Staff Salary Guidelines
- c. Created a task force to review Executive Council policy and MCEC's bylaws.

January 20, 2026

- a. Approved the minutes of November 18, 2025 with minor corrections.
- b. Approved that the Executive Council adopt the "Revised Mandate for Commissions" document as presented and amended as the new guiding document for the groups formerly known as the "Leadership Council" and "Mission Council" and that the changes outlined within begin to be implemented following ACG 2026.
- c. Approved Rich Steinmann to be appointed as liaison between MCEC and the Schmidt Estate following the conclusion of his term as Executive Council Treasurer and MCEC Audit & Finance Committee Chair.
- d. Approved that the Executive Council amend the Faithful Legacy Fund Investment Policy as presented and amended to better facilitate moving forward with the selected Investment Portfolio Manager.

March 17, 2026

- a. Approved motion that Executive Council adopts a newly updated revision to MCEC's General Operating Bylaw No. 4 to be brought to delegates at Annual Church Gathering 2026. *(The motion was approved by email on February 28, 2026).*
- b. Approved motion that the Draft Audited 2026 Financial Statements be presented for ratification by delegates at Annual Church Gathering 2026.
- c. Approved motion to recommend to the delegates at Annual Church Gathering 2026 approval of the YE2027 Spending Plan.

- d. Approved motion that whereas Mennonite Church Eastern Canada is the owner of Église évangélique mennonite de Joliette (1225, rue Ladoucer, Joliette, Quebec, Canada), and that Hochma Mennonite Church (3674 Ontario Street East, Montreal, Quebec, Canada) has been managing the property on our behalf, we direct Hochma Mennonite Church to return access to all bank accounts related to utilities, and the ability to enter contracts for leases and services in order that MCEC may re-establish its position as property owner and manager.
- e. Approved motion that Executive Council approves the recommendation from Mission Commission to grant Full Membership Status in MCEC to Westview Christian Fellowship (St. Catharines, ON), FreeChurch Toronto (Toronto, ON) and Hiyaw Amalak Evangelical Church (Ottawa, ON).
- f. Approved motion that we accept Gift Discernment Committee's recommendation to remove Canadian Multifaith Federation, Detweiler Meeting House and Silver Lake Mennonite Camp from the slate to reflect current practice.
- g. Approved motion to amend the Faithful Legacy Fund policy under Sources of Revenue to say *"...the first \$10,000 of an undesignated donation from an estate, an individual, or a church will be credited to MCEC's Operating Fund. The remainder of any such gift or bequest shall go to the Faithful Legacy Fund."*
- h. Approved motion to amend the Operating Fund under Typical Sources of Revenue to say *"...and the first \$10,000 of an undesignated donation from an estate, an individual, or a church."*

MCEC Bylaw Updates

MCEC Bylaws



[Red-line version](#)



[Clean version](#)

To MCEC Delegates,

Executive Council has worked at updating MCEC Bylaws and is bringing these to you for your ratification.

Two versions of the updated bylaws are available for your review:

- A “red-line version” that tracks all the changes side-by-side with the previous version, and;
- A “clean version” that only shows the updated text.

Both documents can be accessed by using the QR codes or links on this page.

The changes fall into two categories.

1. The first set of changes are updates of language, terminology, and general corrections.
2. The second set of changes relate to the number of terms that Executive Council members are eligible to serve from the current 2 three-year terms to a new maximum of 3 three-year terms.

This proposed change to the number of terms is rooted in the responsibility of Executive Council to provide good and wise governance to MCEC. Allowing up to 3 three-year terms would give council members the opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of MCEC’s vision, purpose and complexity, while building the organizational memory and institutional knowledge that strengthens governance. Greater continuity of service would also allow members more time to contribute to longer-term initiatives, take on officer roles, and support organizational stability.

In February 2026 these proposed changes were communicated to the MCEC Constituency via “MCEC Connect” (weekly email) and feedback was sought. Following this, Executive Council passed a motion to bring these changes to you, the delegates, for ratification.



Thank you for your consideration of these changes and your continued support of MCEC.

Ben Cassels
MCEC Moderator

Committee & Council Nominations

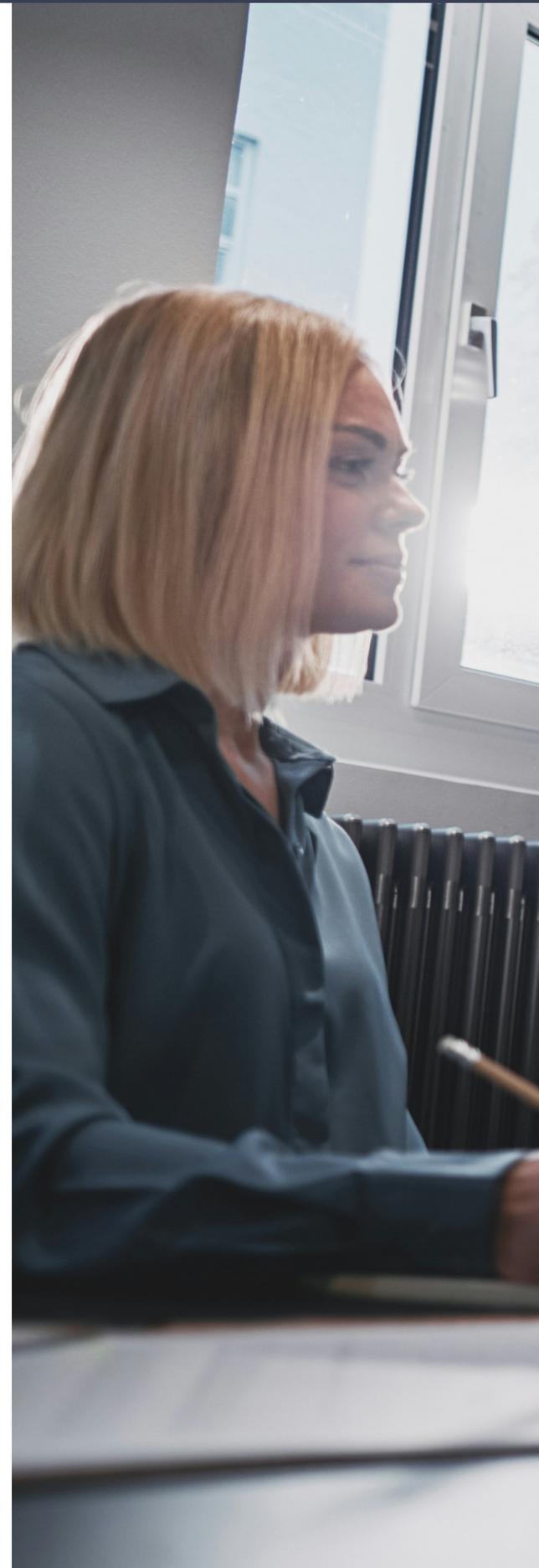
One of the components of the Annual General Meeting is to elect a slate of persons to serve on MCEC's committees and councils. The slate showing current and proposed members follows.

Gift Discernment Committee, who presents these nominations, has been informed that MCEC is no longer expected to provide representatives for the boards of:

- Canadian MultiFaith Federation,
- Detweiler Meeting House or
- Silver Lake Mennonite Camp.

In addition, following engagement with MCEC constituents, Executive Council approved revised mandates and name changes for the groups known as Leadership Council and Mission Council. The mandates for these groups have been refined, their relationships with staff and Executive Council clarified and their names changed to Mission Commission and Leadership Commission.

We are grateful for the work of Gift Discernment in preparing the slate and for each individual who has agreed to serve.





Slate for 2026 – 2027

MCEC COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES

Executive Council

27-2	Felipe Gonzalía	Secretary	First
27-1	James Barber	Investment Comm. Rep.	Hagerman
27-1	Michael Reid		Hamilton
28-2	Ben Cassels	Moderator	Steinmann
29-2	Bruce Burgetz	Treasurer	Toronto United
29-1	Annika Krause		Mennonite Fship Montreal
29-1	François Machichi		Goshen
29-1	_____	Assistant Moderator	_____
29-1	_____		_____

Anthony Siegrist, Ex-officio, MCEC Executive Minister

Audit and Finance Committee

28-1	Shoua Lor		First Hmong
28-1	Tobi Thiessen		Toronto United
28-2	Alex Wiens		North Leamington
29-2	Bruce Burgetz (Treasurer)	Chair	Toronto United
29-1	_____ (rep from Investment)		_____

Laurie Castello, Ex-officio, MCEC Operations and Finance Director
Anthony Siegrist, Ex-officio, MCEC Executive Minister

Investment Committee

27-1	James Barber (EC rep)	Chair	Hagerman
27-1	Ben Eby		Waterloo North
28-1	Nouphone Vongphakdy		Lao Christian Fellowship
29-1	Raymond Chan		Markham Chinese
29-2	Michael Steinmann		The Gathering

Laurie Castello, Ex-officio, MCEC Operations and Finance Director
Anthony Siegrist, Ex-officio, MCEC Executive Minister

Leadership Commission* (new name, terms of reference)

27-1	Andy Brubacher Kaethler		Ottawa
27-1	Chris Hutton		North Leamington
28-1	Mollee Moua		First Hmong
28-2	Matthew Isert Bender	Chair	Nith Valley
28-2	Kim Penner		Stirling Avenue
29-1	Maciel Arias		Toronto Mennonite New Life
29-2	Craig Janzen Neufeld		The First

Marilyn Rudy-Froese, Ex-officio, MCEC Leadership Minister

25, 26, 27 is the year the term is complete (ie 29-1 = individual's first term ends April 30 2029)

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



Mission Commission * (new name, terms of reference)

27-1	Joan Bueckert		Ottawa
27-2	Vic Ratzlaff		Westview
28-1	Paulos Berhe		Rehoboth Inner Healing
28-1	Sara Wyngaarden		Elmira
29-1	Sue Carr	Chair	The Meeting Place
29-1	Nancy Frey		Listowel
29-1	Matha Masyawong		Grace Lao

Fanosie Legesse, Ex-officio, MCEC Intercultural Minister

Gift Discernment Committee

Appointed by Executive Council, Accountable to Executive Council

27-1	Mary Ann Bender		Windsor Mennonite Fship
27-2	Darlene Gingerich		Steinmann
28-0	_____	Chair	_____
28-1	Carrie Lehn		Ottawa
28-1	Brian Quan		Toronto Chinese

Anthony Siegrist, Ex-officio, MCEC Executive Minister

MCEC REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Conrad Grebel University College Board (3 consecutive 3 year terms)

Term begins in October

27-1	Melanie Froese		Hamilton
27-1	Lori Guenther Reesor		Hamilton
27-1	Sharon Lamont		First
28-1	Bryce Kraeker		Rockway
28-1	Brett Kropf		East Zorra
28-1	Hyejung Jessie Yum		Danforth
28-3	Donny Cheung		Toronto United
29-3	Louise Wideman		Steinmann
29-2	Anita Thiessen		Waterloo North

Mennonite Central Committee Ontario Board

27-2	Bruce Yoder		Breslau
28-2	Randy Lepp		Leamington United

Mennonite Publishing Services Board

28-2	Karen Heese		Hagerman
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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



Ontario Mennonite Music Camp Board

27-2	Kendall Jongejan Harder	Shantz
28-1	Brian Manthenga	Stirling Avenue
28-1	Isaac Thiessen	Toronto United

Rockway Mennonite Collegiate Board

Term begins in November

28-2	Rene Baergen	First
29-1	Kathryn Cressman	Hillcrest
29-1	Lianne Finn	Stirling Avenue

United Mennonite Educational Institute Board

Term begins in November

28-1	Matthew Suta	Leamington United
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Warden Woods Community Centre Board

28-1	Roxanne Wright	Toronto United
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Mennonite Church Canada Joint Council

28-2	Ben Cassels, MCEC Moderator	Steinmann
29-1	Daniel Tela	Shalom (Kitchener)

Mennonite Church Canada Nominating Committee Appointee

28-0	_____	_____
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25, 26, 27 is the year the term is complete (ie 29-1 = individual's first term ends April 30 2029)

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

Discernment & Reflection Response Sheet

- 1. Looking Back with Joy:** Where have you seen God at work in MCEC – as an organization and in the relationships between congregations – in the last five years?
- 2. Looking Back with Longing:** What opportunities for shared ministry in the way of Jesus could have been more fully embraced together over the last five years?
- 3. Looking Ahead with Hope:** Where is the Holy Spirit stirring and leading MCEC – all our congregations together – in the next five years?

If it's easier, you can complete this sheet and mail it to MCEC (201–50 Kent Ave., Kitchener, ON N2G 2R1), or bring it with you to the Annual Church Gathering.





Financial Documents

Our Financial Story

The financial statements that follow tell a story of generosity, provision and disciplined stewardship. They capture the patterns of giving across our congregations, the intentional decisions made by leadership and the financial realities that shaped our ministry this past year. As you read them, we invite you to see both the practical outcomes and the deeper narrative of a community caring for its mission with gratitude and responsibility.

Giving

As you will notice in the statements from fiscal year 2026, giving from congregations has exceeded our expectations. We had budgeted for \$1,322,911 and received \$1,422,754. This represents an increase of \$30,216 from the previous year for the first time in four years. At a time when many costs continue to increase, this is significant. We are deeply thankful for the generosity of congregations and individuals.

Expenses

You will also notice that our expenses in fiscal year 2026 totaled \$2,060,854. These expenses include money we share with MC Canada, which supports nationwide projects, money we share with our ministry partners and money used for MCEC ministry. Our expenses for fiscal year 2026 came in \$107,169 less than our plan. This fiscal discipline has not been easy. It has involved saying “no” more than we might like.

Spending Plan

The spending plan for fiscal year 2027 is intended to continue to make progress on MCEC’s annual operating deficit. In 2024 the operating deficit was \$418,253. In 2025 the deficit was \$301,490. And in 2026 the deficit was \$50,138, which is \$125,615 less than the budget approved by delegates last year. The plan for fiscal year 2027 involves a deficit of \$49,528. Most of our spending lines remain similar to our previous budget, with a notable reduction in our occupancy costs made possible by a decrease in the size of our office space. Limited increases can be seen in some lines, such as those for staff travel and provisional congregation support. The overall goal of this spending plan is to enable the



shared ministry of MCEC, which includes energizing congregations in worship, discipleship and mission, in a way that is both hopeful and sustainable.

Faithful Legacy Fund

Over the past year, Executive Council followed through on a prior decision to pull together two existing funds to form the Faithful Legacy Fund. Oversight for this fund is delegated by Executive Council to the Investment Committee who chose Phillips, Hager and North to manage the fund. The choice of fund managers prioritized the ability to conduct valid ethical screening in alignment with MCEC's values, the generation of strong returns and ability to limit long-term risk. The hope is that the Faithful Legacy Fund will appropriately steward large gifts given to MCEC and provide support for our shared mission for years to come. Some of the funds now in the Faithful Legacy Fund were previously managed by Abundance Canada. Challenges at Abundance Canada required a \$93,891 corrective reduction in the balance as of January 31, 2024.

The financial pages that follow display the generosity of our community and the hard work of MCEC's staff and volunteers. The tables and charts are a testament to God's continued provision.



STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES

FOR THE 12 MONTH PERIOD ENDED January 31, 2026

	2025-2026 ACTUAL	2025-2026 BUDGET	2025-2026 BUDGET OVER/(UNDER)	2024-2025 ACTUAL
OPERATING FUND REVENUE				
1 Revenue - Individual and Estate Donations (MCEC)	\$ 91,372	\$ 160,000	\$ (68,628)	\$ 156,040
2 Revenue - Individual Donations (MC Canada)	\$ 23,460	\$ 25,000	\$ (1,540)	\$ 27,352
3 Revenue - Church Giving	\$ 1,422,754	\$ 1,322,911	\$ 99,843	\$ 1,392,538
4 Revenue - Relational Witness Program	\$ 191,453	\$ 200,000	\$ (8,547)	\$ 347,972
5 Mennonite Church Canada - Relational Witness - Designated	\$ (191,453)	\$ (200,000)	\$ 8,547	\$ (347,972)
6 Revenue - Other bank Interest	\$ 74,194	\$ 95,375	\$ (21,181)	\$ 241,118
7 Total Core Revenues	\$ 1,611,780	\$ 1,603,286	\$ 8,494	\$ 1,817,048
8 Revenue - Specific Program Donations	\$ 10,415	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,415	\$ 27,900
9 Revenue - Fund transfers	\$ 307,400	\$ 310,172	\$ (2,772)	\$ 244,500
10 Revenue - Program Fees, Registrations, Recoveries	\$ 81,120	\$ 73,811	\$ 7,309	\$ 210,075
11 Total Additional Revenues	\$ 398,935	\$ 388,984	\$ 9,951	\$ 482,475
12 GROSS REVENUE	\$ 2,010,715	\$ 1,992,270	\$ 18,445	\$ 2,299,523
OPERATING FUND EXPENSE				
13 Executive Ministry (Schedule A)	\$ 767,092	\$ 819,046	\$ (51,954)	\$ 704,167
14 Congregational Ministries (Schedule B)	\$ 665,138	\$ 694,734	\$ (29,596)	\$ 1,200,574
15 Operations (Schedule C)	\$ 497,720	\$ 530,244	\$ (32,524)	\$ 575,519
16 Occupancy (Schedule D)	\$ 130,903	\$ 123,998	\$ 6,905	\$ 120,753
17 TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 2,060,853	\$ 2,168,022	\$ (107,169)	\$ 2,601,013
18 Surplus/(deficit) from operations	\$ (50,138)	\$ (175,753)	\$ 125,615	\$ (301,490)
19 Transfers from Faithful Legacy Fund	\$ 175,753	\$ 175,753	\$ -	\$ 301,490
20 Net Operating Surplus/Deficit	\$ 125,615	\$ -	\$ 125,615	\$ -



STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES

FOR THE 12 MONTH PERIOD ENDED January 31, 2026

	2025-2026 ACTUAL	2025-2026 BUDGET	2025-2026 BUDGET	2024-2025 ACTUAL
	OVER/(UNDER)			
Executive Ministry (Schedule A)				
1	Salary & Payroll Expenses \$ 163,254	\$ 188,096	\$ (24,842)	\$ 92,068
2	Travel & Expenses \$ 8,836	\$ 15,120	\$ (6,284)	\$ 3,367
3	Staff Recognition and Development \$ 9,651	\$ 12,800	\$ (3,149)	\$ 6,298
4	Consulting \$ 1,059	\$ 5,000	\$ (3,941)	\$ 3,000
5	Executive Council Travel and Expenses \$ 6,867	\$ 10,000	\$ (3,133)	\$ 12,891
6	Engagement Expenses \$ 25	\$ 3,000	\$ (2,975)	\$ -
7	MC Canada Gathering 2025 \$ 15,929	\$ 26,591	\$ (10,662)	\$ -
8	Partner Ministries ¹ \$ 561,471	\$ 558,439	\$ 3,032	\$ 586,543
9	Executive Ministry total \$ 767,092	\$ 819,046	\$ (51,954)	\$ 704,167
Congregational Ministries (Schedule B)				
10	Salary & Payroll Expenses \$ 347,995	\$ 356,823	\$ (8,828)	\$ 678,524
11	Travel & Expenses \$ 24,636	\$ 26,540	\$ (1,904)	\$ 47,812
12	Resourcing for Pastors and Congregations \$ 3,126	\$ 13,250	\$ (10,124)	\$ 90,021
13	Intercultural Competence \$ 1,805	\$ 7,500	\$ (5,695)	\$ -
14	TiM Program Expenses (Spring only) \$ 8,105	\$ 11,150	\$ (3,045)	\$ 16,864
15	Provisional Church Support \$ 78,000	\$ 78,000	\$ -	\$ 65,116
16	Partner Ministries ² \$ 201,471	\$ 201,471	\$ -	\$ 302,237
17	Congregational Ministries total \$ 665,138	\$ 694,734	\$ (29,596)	\$ 1,200,574
Operations (Schedule C)				
18	Salary & Payroll Expenses \$ 406,853	\$ 410,074	\$ (3,221)	\$ 413,554
19	Travel & Expenses \$ 3,286	\$ 4,300	\$ (1,014)	\$ -
20	Office and Admin Expenses \$ 21,638	\$ 24,500	\$ (2,862)	\$ 21,187
21	IT and Subscription Expenses \$ 36,048	\$ 39,370	\$ (3,322)	\$ 35,514
22	Amortization \$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ (5,000)	\$ 5,148
23	Office Equipment & Furniture (Expensed) \$ 9,011	\$ 500	\$ 8,511	\$ 827
24	Legal Audit & Professional Services \$ 18,281	\$ 36,500	\$ (18,219)	\$ 49,014
25	Program Expenses \$ 2,603	\$ 10,000	\$ (7,397)	\$ 50,275
26	Operations total \$ 497,720	\$ 530,244	\$ (32,524)	\$ 575,519
Occupancy (Schedule D)				
27	Rent/Office Renovation and CAMS \$ 124,588	\$ 117,538	\$ 7,050	\$ 114,467
28	Insurance \$ 6,315	\$ 6,460	\$ (145)	\$ 6,286
29	Occupancy total \$ 130,903	\$ 123,998	\$ 6,905	\$ 120,753
Footnotes				
1. Partner Ministries - included in Schedule A				
30	Mennonite Church Canada \$ 472,779	\$ 472,780	\$ -	\$ 495,927
31	Mennonite World Conference \$ 4,409	\$ 4,409	\$ -	\$ 6,614
32	Canadian Mennonite \$ 83,533	\$ 80,500	\$ 3,033	\$ 84,002
33	Mennonite Historical Society Canada \$ 750	\$ 750	\$ -	\$ -
2. Partner Ministries - included in Schedule B				
34	Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary \$ 25,331	\$ 25,331	\$ -	\$ 38,000
35	Conrad Grebel University College \$ 92,750	\$ 92,750	\$ -	\$ 139,139
36	Rockway Mennonite Collegiate \$ 44,466	\$ 44,466	\$ -	\$ 66,704
37	United Mennonite Educational Institute \$ 16,789	\$ 16,789	\$ -	\$ 25,185
38	Ontario Mennonite Music Camp \$ 1,384	\$ 1,384	\$ -	\$ 2,076
39	Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp \$ 6,917	\$ 6,917	\$ -	\$ 10,377
40	Sivler Lake Mennonite Camp \$ 6,917	\$ 6,917	\$ -	\$ 10,377
41	Willowgrove Camp \$ 6,917	\$ 6,917	\$ -	\$ 10,377
42	\$ 762,942	\$ 759,910	\$ 3,033	\$ 888,778



Externally Restricted Funds

FOR THE 12 MONTH PERIOD ENDED January 31, 2026

	Blenheim	Reesor	Mission Capital	Mission Donations
ASSETS				
Cash and Short-term deposits	\$ 37,404	\$ 13,020	\$ 275,000	\$ 875,000
Account Receivable	\$ 225	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Due from Operating	\$ 1,589	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Loans Receivable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 59,992	\$ -
Total Assets	\$ 39,217	\$ 13,020	\$ 334,992	\$ 875,000
LIABILITIES				
Due to Operating	\$ -	\$ 3,294	\$ 12,668	\$ 45,479
Total Liabilities	\$ -	\$ 3,294	\$ 12,668	\$ 45,479
EQUITY				
Balance Beginning of Year	\$ 36,769	\$ 9,306	\$ 267,522	\$ 938,696
Interest	\$ 2,448	\$ 1,520	\$ 4,801	\$ 35,662
Miscellaneous income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Donations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,000	\$ 4,832
	\$ 39,217	\$ 10,826	\$ 322,324	\$ 979,191
Expenses	\$ -	\$ 1,100	\$ -	\$ -
Grants and Disbursements	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Transfers Out	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 149,670
Balance End of Year	\$ 39,217	\$ 9,726	\$ 322,324	\$ 829,521
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$ 39,217	\$ 13,020	\$ 334,992	\$ 875,000

INTERNALLY RESTRICTED FUNDS



Internally Restricted Funds

FOR THE 12 MONTH PERIOD ENDED January 31, 2026

	Faithful Legacy	Property	Discretionary Assistance	Leadership Formation	Capital Assets
ASSETS					
Cash and Short-term deposits	\$ 3,158,706	\$ -	\$ 90,000	\$ 160,000	\$ -
Account Receivable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Due from Operating	\$ 704,715	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Due from Property Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Loans Receivable-CGUC	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Loans Receivable-MCCO	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Assets net of amortization	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 499,682
Total Assets	\$ 3,863,421	\$ -	\$ 90,000	\$ 160,000	\$ 499,682
LIABILITIES					
Due to Property Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Due to Faithful Legacy Fund		\$ -			
Due to Operating Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,315	\$ 23,861	\$ 3,212
Total Liabilities	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,315	\$ 23,861	\$ 3,212
EQUITY					
Balance Beginning of Year	\$ 3,917,373	\$ -	\$ 80,670	\$ 176,304	\$ 504,830
Interest	\$ 144,884	\$ 61,358	\$ 1,019	\$ 1,806	\$ -
Donations	\$ 140,837	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Rental Income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,400
Miscellaneous Income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,745
Transfers In	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ 4,203,093	\$ 61,358	\$ 81,688	\$ 178,110	\$ 532,975
Expenses	\$ 11,895	\$ -	\$ 3,003	\$ -	\$ 36,505
Grants and Disbursements	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 41,970	\$ -
Transfers Out	\$ 327,778	\$ 61,358	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Balance End of Year	\$ 3,863,421	\$ -	\$ 78,685	\$ 136,139	\$ 496,470
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$ 3,863,421	\$ -	\$ 90,000	\$ 160,000	\$ 499,682



MCEC OPERATING FUND

Spending Plan for the year ending January 31, 2027

		2026-2027		2025-2026		2025-2026	
		Budget	Difference	Actual	Budget		
1	Revenue - Individual and Estate Donations (MCEC)	\$ 140,000	\$ 8,628	\$ 91,372	\$ 160,000		
2	Revenue - Individual Donations (MC Canada)	\$ 25,000	\$ 1,540	\$ 23,460	\$ 25,000		
3	Revenue - Church Giving	1 \$ 1,400,000	\$ (22,754)	\$ 1,422,754	\$ 1,322,911		
4	Revenue - Relational Witness Program	\$ 200,000	\$ 8,547	\$ 191,453	\$ 200,000		
5	Mennonite Church Canada - Relational Witness - Designated	\$ (200,000)	\$ (8,547)	\$ (191,453)	\$ (200,000)		
6	Revenue - Other bank Interest	2 \$ 6,000	\$ (68,194)	\$ 74,194	\$ 95,375		
7	Total Core Revenues	\$ 1,571,000	\$ (80,780)	\$ 1,611,780	\$ 1,603,286		
8	Revenue - Specific Program Donations	\$ 7,500	\$ (2,915)	\$ 10,415	\$ 5,000		
9	Revenue - Special Projects (Together in Worship)	3 \$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ -		
10	Revenue - Fund transfers	4 \$ 327,921	\$ 20,521	\$ 307,400	\$ 310,172		
11	Revenue - Program Fees, Registrations, Recoveries	5 \$ 77,480	\$ (3,640)	\$ 81,120	\$ 73,811		
12	Total Additional Revenues	\$ 437,901	\$ 38,966	\$ 398,935	\$ 388,984		
13	GROSS REVENUE	\$ 2,008,901	\$ (41,814)	\$ 2,010,715	\$ 1,992,270		
14	Executive Ministry (Schedule A)	6 \$ 760,591	\$ (6,501)	\$ 767,092	\$ 819,046		
15	Congregational Ministries (Schedule B)	\$ 696,080	\$ 30,942	\$ 665,138	\$ 694,734		
16	Operations (Schedule C)	7 \$ 541,351	\$ 43,631	\$ 497,720	\$ 530,244		
17	Occupancy (Schedule D)	8 \$ 60,408	\$ (70,495)	\$ 130,903	\$ 123,998		
18	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 2,058,429	\$ (2,424)	\$ 2,060,853	\$ 2,168,022		
19	Surplus/(deficit) from operations	\$ (49,528)	\$ (39,390)	\$ (50,138)	\$ (175,753)		
20	Transfers from Faithful Legacy Fund	9 \$ 49,528	\$ 39,390	\$ 175,753	\$ 175,753		
21	Net Operating Surplus/Deficit	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 125,615	\$ -		

- NOTES
- 1 2% less than FYE26 Actual which was 2% more than FYE25 Actual
 - 2 MCCO loan has been repaid resulting in lower interest
 - 3 Together in Worship grant
 - 4 Fund transfers: 5% FLF; 15% MDBF; \$3.5K for ACG support
 - 5 includes ACG revenue
 - 6 includes Together in Worship expense
 - 7 includes ACG expense
 - 8 \$63K annual savings realized in office renovations
 - 9 Transfer by Policy



MCEC OPERATING FUND

Spending Plan for the year ending January 31, 2027

		2026-2027		2025-2026	2025-2026
		Budget	Difference	Actual	Budget
Executive Ministry (Schedule A)					
1	Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$ 150,204	\$ (13,050)	\$ 163,254	\$ 188,096
2	Travel & Expenses	\$ 10,555	\$ 1,719	\$ 8,836	\$ 15,120
3	Staff Recognition and Development	\$ 13,600	\$ 3,949	\$ 9,651	\$ 12,800
4	Consulting	\$ 2,000	\$ 941	\$ 1,059	\$ 5,000
5	Executive Council Travel and Expenses	\$ 10,000	\$ 3,133	\$ 6,867	\$ 10,000
6	Engagement Expenses	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,475	\$ 25	\$ 3,000
7	MC Canada Gathering 2025	\$ -	\$ (15,929)	\$ 15,929	\$ 26,591
8	Special Project Expense (TiW)	\$ 22,500	\$ 22,500	\$ -	\$ -
9	Partner Ministries ¹	\$ 550,231	\$ (11,240)	\$ 561,471	\$ 558,439
10	Executive Ministry total	\$ 760,591	\$ (6,501)	\$ 767,092	\$ 819,046
Congregational Ministries (Schedule B)					
11	Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$ 365,008	\$ 17,013	\$ 347,995	\$ 356,823
12	Travel & Expenses	\$ 30,650	\$ 6,014	\$ 24,636	\$ 26,540
13	Resourcing for Pastors and Congregations	\$ 9,950	\$ 6,824	\$ 3,126	\$ 13,250
14	Intercultural Competence	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,195	\$ 1,805	\$ 7,500
15	TiM Program Expenses (Spring only)	\$ -	\$ (8,105)	\$ 8,105	\$ 11,150
16	Provisional Church Support	\$ 84,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 78,000	\$ 78,000
17	Partner Ministries ²	\$ 201,471	\$ -	\$ 201,471	\$ 201,471
18	Congregational Ministries total	\$ 696,080	\$ 30,942	\$ 665,138	\$ 694,734
Operations (Schedule C)					
19	Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$ 416,085	\$ 9,232	\$ 406,853	\$ 410,074
20	Travel & Expenses	\$ 4,550	\$ 1,264	\$ 3,286	\$ 4,300
21	Office and Admin Expenses	\$ 25,250	\$ 3,612	\$ 21,638	\$ 24,500
22	IT and Subscription Expenses	\$ 36,715	\$ 667	\$ 36,048	\$ 39,370
23	Amortization	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000
24	Office Equipment & Furniture (Expensed)	\$ 6,876	\$ (2,135)	\$ 9,011	\$ 500
25	Legal Audit & Professional Services	\$ 28,375	\$ 10,094	\$ 18,281	\$ 36,500
26	Program Expenses	\$ 23,500	\$ 20,897	\$ 2,603	\$ 10,000
27	Operations total	\$ 541,351	\$ 43,631	\$ 497,720	\$ 530,244
Occupancy (Schedule D)					
28	Rent and CAMS	\$ 53,660	\$ (70,928)	\$ 124,588	\$ 117,538
29	Insurance	\$ 6,748	\$ 433	\$ 6,315	\$ 6,460
	Occupancy total	\$ 60,408	\$ (70,495)	\$ 130,903	\$ 123,998
30	Footnotes				
	<i>1. Partner Ministries - included in Schedule A</i>				
	Mennonite Church Canada	\$ 461,276	\$ (11,503)	\$ 472,779	\$ 472,780
	Mennonite World Conference	\$ 4,409	\$ -	\$ 4,409	\$ 4,409
	Canadian Mennonite	\$ 83,396	\$ (137)	\$ 83,533	\$ 80,500
	Mennonite Historical Society Canada	\$ 1,150	\$ 400	\$ 750	\$ 750
	<i>2. Partner Ministries - included in Schedule B</i>				
	Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary	\$ 25,331	\$ -	\$ 25,331	\$ 25,331
	Conrad Grebel University College	\$ 92,750	\$ -	\$ 92,750	\$ 92,750
	Rockway Mennonite Collegiate	\$ 44,466	\$ -	\$ 44,466	\$ 44,466
	United Mennonite Educational Institute	\$ 16,789	\$ -	\$ 16,789	\$ 16,789
	Ontario Mennonite Music Camp	\$ 1,384	\$ -	\$ 1,384	\$ 1,384
	Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp	\$ 6,917	\$ -	\$ 6,917	\$ 6,917
	Sivler Lake Mennonite Camp	\$ 6,917	\$ -	\$ 6,917	\$ 6,917
	Willowgrove Camp	\$ 6,917	\$ -	\$ 6,917	\$ 6,917
		\$ 751,703	\$ (11,240)	\$ 762,942	\$ 759,910



Year in Review

Congregational Transitions

Provisional to Full Membership:

FreeChurch Toronto is committed to being a light in their city, loving God and loving their neighbours. Christ-centred and Spirit-led, they journey together and live out their faith in tangible ways in their neighbourhoods, relationships and daily vocations. They are a growing congregation with close to 100 members and nearly 200 adults and children who consider FreeChurch their home.

A Provisional Member congregation since April 2024, FreeChurch Toronto has fully engaged in the life of the MCEC community of congregations. With the approval of the Executive Council, they now join as a Full Member congregation.



FreeChurch Toronto

Hiyaw Amalack Evangelical Church is a congregation in Ottawa with about 50 members who are committed to the Great Commission found in Mark 16 and Matthew 28, proclaiming the gospel to all nations and making disciples of Jesus Christ. Their vision is to reach Eritrean people across North America with the Good News in the language of their heart: Tigrinya.

A Provisional Member congregation since 2021, Hiyaw Amalack (meaning “Living God”) has been building and deepening relationships, particularly among MCEC Ottawa area congregations. With the approval of the Executive Council, they now join MCEC as a Full Member congregation.



Hiyaw Amalack

Westview Christian Fellowship makes its home in the Queenston neighbourhood of St. Catharines. This congregation of 20–30 people gathers regularly for worship and remains deeply committed to those who are marginalized in their community. Grounded in the Good News of Christ’s life and teachings, they offer an Anabaptist presence in the heart of Queenston.

A Provisional Member congregation since 2017, Westview has participated in cluster gatherings and has actively supported the life of the MCEC community of congregations. With the approval of the Executive Council, they now join MCEC as a Full Member congregation.



Westview Christian Fellowship

Closure: Bethel Mennonite Church

For 78 years, this faithful community followed God's call with joy and dedication. Through children's programs, the sending of mission workers, vibrant youth outreach and many other ministries, Bethel nurtured a deep legacy of faith and community. Over the decades, members served in at least 42 countries, extending Christ's love far beyond their local congregation. Bethel officially closed in October of 2025, leaving behind a rich and enduring witness of hope for the future.



Withdrawn Provisional Membership: Grace Christian Church

Grace Christian Church, a Chin congregation in Ottawa, joined MCEC as a Provisional Member congregation in 2012. In May 2025, they discerned a withdrawal from MCEC. In their words, "We are deeply grateful for the support, partnership and shared ministry over the past 20 years. Your guidance and collaboration have been an important part of our journey, and we sincerely thank you for all that you've contributed to our church and mission."





Pastor Thing Sai and Kitchener Emmanuel Church celebrated his ordination this past year.

GROWING INTO THE FUTURE

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

Nurturing Vibrant Communities

MCEC comes alongside pastors and congregations to help them nurture spiritually alive, mission-engaged Anabaptist congregations. Through leadership development, practical resourcing, intercultural learning and church-revitalization conversations, we strengthen leaders for faithful ministry. As we grow into the future together we trust God’s Spirit to guide and sustain our shared ministry.

Identity & Purpose

Identity Statement

Mennonite Church Eastern Canada is a diverse community
Transformed by the love of God
Inspired by the hope we find in Jesus
Called to action by the power of the Holy Spirit

Purpose Statement

We come together as a regional church to:
Energize congregations in worship, discipleship and mission
Encourage leaders of hope, vision and transformation
Embody God’s reconciling ministry for all creation.

“I am grateful for MCEC’s ongoing support of congregational leaders, including the financial assistance to congregations supporting sabbatical leaves, through the Leadership Formation Fund.”

- Brandon Leis
Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church

106

Across MCEC's 106 congregations, more than 100 worship services happen every week!

166

MCEC gives thanks for 166 pastors who have answered God's call to serve in ministry.

142

Congregational Ministries Team personally met with 142 pastors to encourage and support their ministry leadership.

128

MCEC staff engaged congregations through 128 worship services, trainings, consultations and events.

73

Nearly three-quarters of our congregations, 73%, took part in MCEC events held across the year.

Ministry Highlights

1

Strengthened Safe Church Practices

MCEC resourced congregations with workshops, equipping them to create safer faith communities.

2

Fostered Intercultural Friendships

Worship, workshops and volleyball tournaments celebrated the beloved-ness of our community.

3

Celebrated Congregational Growth

Embraced growth in five congregations in transition: three provisional and two full member congregations.

4

Campanioned Congregations and Leaders

MCEC walked with congregations and pastors through discernment processes and meaningful conversations.

5

Welcomed Nationwide Family of Faith

Hosted MC Canada Gathering, welcoming participants from across the country to worship together.



Communion in community - Anthony Siegrist, MCEC Executive Minister, serves the gathered church at the MC Canada Gathering in Kitchener, ON, July 2025.

Priorities

NAVIGATING CHANGE - fostering a culture of learning, innovation and adaptability.

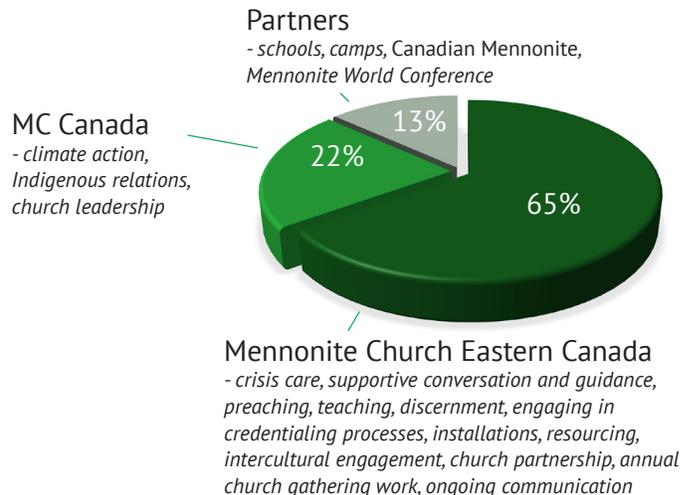
DEVELOPING LEADERS - equipping individuals to pursue their ministerial and leadership calling

INTERGENERATIONAL DISCIPLESHIP - collaborating in support of discipleship and faith formation

EMBRACING DIVERSITY - inviting the church to explore the variety and richness of God's people

SEEKING PEACE AND JUSTICE - supporting and resourcing congregations in peace and justice issues, grounded in Anabaptist-Mennonite theology.

Gifts To MCEC In Action





Marilyn Rudy-Froese encourages members at Bethel Mennonite Church's closing service.

Growing into the Future: Companioning with Congregations

MCEC walks with congregations through all seasons of congregational life.

Closing with Courage and Care

In October 2025, after 78 years of faithful ministry, Bethel Mennonite Church made the painful decision to close its doors. It was a difficult choice, one the congregation approached with deep care and prayerful discernment.

They invited Marilyn Rudy-Froese, MCEC Leadership Minister, to walk with them through this holy and uncertain season. With her gentle presence and attentive leadership, she helped create space for honest reflection and accompanied the congregation as they listened for God's leading.

The people of Bethel recognized that closure was the faithful path forward. Together, they committed themselves to closing well. As more than one member shared, "We wouldn't have been able to get to this decision on our own—we needed Marilyn's guidance and sensitivity to help us along the way."

Exploring a New Intercultural Path Together

East Zorra Mennonite Church and Meheret Evangelical Church have stepped into a new season of relationship-building rooted in curiosity, trust and a shared desire to grow as an intercultural community. Leaders from both congregations have been meeting with Fanosie Legesse, MCEC Intercultural Minister, to imagine together how this emerging partnership might look.

Fanosie accompanies both churches with the steady, listening wisdom he brings as a cultural interpreter to help each congregation understand the other and offers guidance as decisions unfold. His presence has opened space for meaningful conversation, mutual learning and joyful discovery.

Together, the two congregations have begun shaping shared experiences that will strengthen this growing relationship. They have planned combined worship services in June and September, along with a youth and young adult day this summer—moments that will bring their communities together in prayer, friendship and celebration.

What is forming is more than a partnership; it is a glimpse of the beautiful future God calls us to where different stories meet, where new understanding takes root and where we learn to walk with one another in faith.

Growing into the Future: Walking with Leaders

MCEC encourages leaders of hope, vision and transformation.

Walking Alongside Pastors

Over the past year, one of the most meaningful parts of MCEC work has been walking alongside pastors as they navigate seasons of transition, discernment and renewed call. Pastoral leadership is never static; it grows and shifts as the Spirit moves. Regional Ministers have the privilege of accompanying pastors in that journey.

A significant portion of this ministry happens quietly—in one-on-one conversations with pastors who are beginning to sense that a season of ministry may be changing. These conversations are never simply about job satisfaction or restlessness. Cathrin van Sintern-Dick, Regional Minister, says, “It’s rarely about being happy or unhappy. The deeper question is always, ‘Where do you hear God’s Spirit speaking to you in this moment of your ministry?’”

Often, pastors arrive with a gentle stirring already in their hearts: a sense that a ministry chapter is

coming to completion, or that God may be opening a door elsewhere. At the same time, elsewhere in MCEC, another congregation may be prayerfully seeking a pastor whose gifts match that emerging call. “It surprises me how often God is already at work on both sides,” Cathrin reflects.

These conversations are deeply life-giving. Pastors carry a profound loyalty and love for the people they serve, and discerning a transition can feel tender. Regional Ministers often help to hold that space—listening, asking questions, reminding pastors that seeking God’s next faithful step is itself an act of care for the congregation.

The pastoral search process is multi-layered. Regional Ministers support pastors, accompany congregations and bring insight about emerging needs and

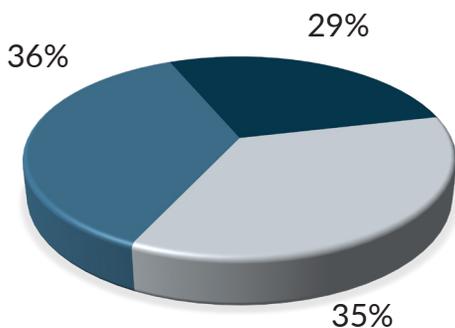
available gifts. “It’s like weaving many threads together—God’s call, the pastor’s discernment, the congregation’s hopes,” Cathrin says. “When the pieces come together, it forms something beautiful.”

Through all of it, Regional Ministers Yoel Masyawong, Jean Claude Nkundwa and Cathrin remain committed to walk alongside pastors with openness, trust and deep confidence that the Spirit is guiding the journey.



Moment of renewed call and shared ministry. Cathrin at installation service of Wendy Janzen and Chip Bender at Erb St. Mennonite Church.

Day to Day Ministry at a Glance



Energize Congregations 35%

Preaching, Church Visits, Crisis Consultation, Discernment Processes, Pastoral Searches, Intercultural Workshops, MCEC Connect, Annual Church Gathering, MC Canada Gathering, Working with Congregations in Transition

Encourage Leaders 36%

Pastoral Credentialing Interviews, Installations, Ordinations, MCEC Connect, Pastoral Conversations and Contacts, Continuing Education, Connecting with Clusters, Multicultural Pastoral Conversations, Pastors Retreats, Financial Zoom Calls, Pastor Learning Circles

Embody God's Reconciling Ministry 29%

Partner Conversations and Connections, Supporting MCEC Working Groups, Intercultural Events and Workshops, HR Resourcing, Meeting with Church Leaders, MCEC Connect, Annual Church Gathering

Sponsors/Partners

Silver Sponsorship



Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

Located in Elkhart, Indiana, on ancestral land of the Potawatomi and Miami peoples, Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary is a learning community with an Anabaptist vision, offering theological education for learners both on campus and at a distance as well as a wide array of lifelong learning programs – all with the goal of educating followers of Jesus Christ to be leaders for God’s reconciling mission in the world. ambs.edu

Canadian Mennonite

Canadian Mennonite shares stories that connect, inspire and inform. From faith and congregational life to culture and social justice, we explore the experiences and perspectives that shape Mennonite communities across Canada. Together with MCEC, we celebrate the voices and stories that nurture faith, spark conversation and strengthen the journey we share together. canadianmennonite.org

COMPASS Refugee Centre

COMPASS Refugee Centre envisions a community where everyone belongs and thrives. Through donor and church support, we empower refugee claimants and protected persons to navigate refugee systems and rebuild their lives in Canada. We ensure access to essential settlement services and new networks of support. Rooted in dignity, respect and courageous welcome, we are the friend and help for vulnerable people to overcome barriers and gain lives beyond refuge, strengthening our community for the future. compassrefugee.ca

Credence & Co.

Helping congregations and organizations to be at their best is central to Credence’s work. In spring 2026 Credence is launching Restorative Conversations, a video and discussion series that supports faith-based groups with exploring questions like: “How do we have hard conversations in a healthy way?” and “How can we support people to be at their best with one another?”

For regular updates about this and other Credence work [sign up for Credence’s newsletter](http://credenceandco.com). credenceandco.com

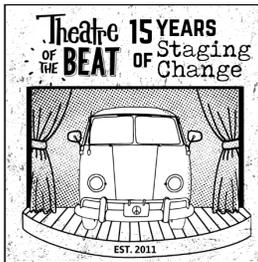
Sponsors/Partners

Silver Sponsorship



Mennonite Central Committee Ontario

Mennonite Central Committee Ontario shares God's love and compassion for all through relief, development and peace in the name of Christ. We equip churches to build peace in their neighbourhoods, settle refugees and pursue reconciliation with Indigenous people. Volunteer with a group to can meat, pack relief kits or sew comforters. Book a speaker or a group learning experience about climate justice, refugees, colonization and residential schools and other topics. Contact Stephenroy@mcco.ca to learn more. mcc.org/about/canada/ontario



Theatre of the Beat

Theatre of the Beat is on tour! *Invisible Threads* is an investigative drama following the story of a clothing store employee who discovers a secret note in a pair of imported jeans, sparking revelations about wage theft, unsafe workplaces and hidden systems of exploitation both overseas and in Canada.

To see when we're coming near you check out theatreofthebeat.ca or email us at info@theatreofthebeat.ca to chat about workshops or performances in your church or community.

Bronze Sponsorship



grebel.ca



hiddenacres.ca



kindredcu.com



mds.org



mennomedia.org



rockway.ca



slmc.ca

MCEC Congregations

Full Member Congregations

1. Avon Mennonite Church
2. Bethany Mennonite Church
3. Blenheim Ecumenical House Church
4. Bloomingdale Mennonite Church
5. Breslau Mennonite Church
6. Brussels Mennonite Fellowship
7. Cassel Mennonite Church
8. Chin Christian Church
9. Church of the Living Word in Ottawa
10. Community Mennonite Church, Stouffville
11. Community Mennonite Fellowship
12. Crosshill Mennonite Church
13. Danforth Mennonite Church
14. East Zorra Mennonite Church
15. Elmira Mennonite Church
16. Erb Street Mennonite Church
17. Erie View United Mennonite Church
18. Faith Mennonite Church
19. First Hmong Mennonite Church
20. First Mennonite Church
21. Floradale Mennonite Church
22. FreeChurch Toronto
23. Grace Lao Mennonite Church
24. Grace Mennonite Church
25. Grace New Life Mennonite Church
26. Hagerman Mennonite Church
27. Hamilton Mennonite Church
28. Hanover Mennonite Church
29. Harrow Mennonite Church
30. Hillcrest Mennonite Church
31. Hiyaw Amalack Evangelical Church
32. Hochma
33. Hunta Mennonite Church
34. Kitchener Emmanuel Church
35. KW House Church
36. Lao Canadian Evangelical Mennonite Church
37. Lao Christian Fellowship
38. Leamington United Mennonite Church
39. Linwell Church
40. Listowel Mennonite Church
41. Mannheim Mennonite Church
42. Markham Chinese Mennonite Church
43. Markham Christian Worship Centre
44. McArthurs Mills Christian Fellowship
45. Meheret Evangelical Church
46. Mennonite Fellowship of Montreal
47. Niagara United Mennonite Church
48. Nith Valley Mennonite Church
49. North Leamington United Mennonite Church
50. Oromo Evangelical Church of Ottawa
51. Ottawa Mennonite Church
52. Petitcodiac Mennonite Church
53. Pioneer Park Christian Fellowship
54. Poole Mennonite Church
55. Preston Mennonite Church
56. Rainham Mennonite Church
57. Rockway Mennonite Church
58. Rouge Valley Mennonite Church
59. Shalom Worship and Healing Center
60. Shantz Mennonite Church
61. St. Agatha Mennonite Church
62. St. Jacobs Mennonite Church
63. Steinmann Mennonite Church
64. Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church
65. Tavistock Mennonite Church
66. The Church at Nairn
67. The First Mennonite Church
68. The Gathering Church
69. Toronto Chinese Mennonite Church
70. Toronto Mennonite New Life Church
71. Toronto United Mennonite Church
72. Tree of Life/Arbre de Vie
73. Valleyview Mennonite Church
74. Vineland United Mennonite Church
75. Wanner Mennonite Church
76. Waterloo North Mennonite Church
77. Waterloo-Kitchener United Mennonite Church
78. Waters Mennonite Church
79. Wellesley Mennonite Church
80. West Hills Mennonite Fellowship
81. Westview Christian Fellowship
82. Wideman Mennonite Church
83. Wilmot Mennonite Church
84. Windsor Mennonite Fellowship
85. Zion Mennonite Fellowship

Provisional Membership Congregations

1. Burning Bush Forest Church
2. Centre Béthésda Mennonite de Quebec
3. Christ Kingdom Reformed Church
4. Église Bethésda Mennonite de Saint-Hyacinthe
5. Église de Dieu Réparateur des Brèches (RDB)
6. Église Jésus-Christ Appelle Tous
7. Église Maison de l'Grâce
8. Église Mennonite Agape
9. Freedom Gospel Ethiopian Church
10. Goshen Mennonite Church
11. Ma Destinée
12. MDM Joliette
13. Medahnialem Ethiopian Evangelical Church
14. Mennonite Disciples Swahili Church
15. Rehoboth Inner Healing Church
16. Shalom Worship and Healing Center, Guelph
17. Shalom Worship and Healing Center, Windsor
18. SoulHouse Church - Connect City
19. The Meeting Place
20. Victory Christ's Ambassadors Church
21. Warden Underground - Connect City

Total: 106