

Courageous Imagination:

Living into the Journey



MCEC 35th
Annual Church Gathering
April 29 & 30, 2022

Discernment Documents

It is like a mustard seed...

"What is the kingdom of God like? And to what should I compare it? It is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches." - Luke 13:18-21, NRSV

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A YEAR OF COURAGEOUS IMAGINATION

A message from our moderator



Arli Klassen
MCEC Moderator

This report book helps us to look back at the last year with relief and gratitude, and to look ahead to this next year with hope and faith. The Holy Spirit is at work among us as an MCEC community.

2021 was a challenging year, another pandemic year. Everyone is tired of Covid restrictions and relieved that we found our way through another year. We are deeply grateful for MCEC pastors, congregational leaders and staff who brought creativity and commitment in figuring out how we can continue to grow as a community of Jesus-followers together. These reports are the briefest of statements about the amazing things we were able to do in 2021 in and among our congregations as a community of faith. Let us give thanks together for all those who gave and served God and each other in some capacity in this last year.

It has been a year of Courageous Imagination – on a daily and weekly basis, and as a visioning and prioritizing process for us as a whole faith community in MCEC. I hope you too are encouraged by the broad participation and the seeds we are creating together. As your Executive Council, we look forward to the Annual Church Gathering when we will bring to you fresh ideas regarding our shared identity, vision, purpose, values and priorities. These ideas emerge from the 2021 consultations and will shape our work together and each of our congregations in the coming seven years. The Holy Spirit is at work among us as an MCEC community.

“What is the kingdom of God like? And to what should I compare it? It is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches.”
- Luke 13:18-21, NRSV

A GENEROUS AND HOPEFUL PEOPLE

A message from our executive minister

“We are a generous and hopeful people, willing to take a risk.”

I keep these words penciled on a sticky note tacked to the bulletin board by my desk. This simple sentence came from a feedback survey on who God is calling us to be as the people of MCEC, part of gathering input for our Courageous Imagination journey over the past year. To me, this sentence embodies the Courageous Imagination themes of openness to transformation, outward-focused hospitality and our identity as a people transformed by love, inspired by our hope in Jesus and our calling to action by the power of the Spirit. As we move forward in our discernment journey toward new language to define our identity, purpose and values, I am filled with hope at seeing how God is at work in our community of faith and beyond.

This has been a challenging year after a challenging year, with fatigue and burnout at play across our society. Yet I am awestruck to see the generosity of time and financial resources shared in our community of faith as congregations continue to innovate, worship and witness to God’s transforming love in the midst of hardship. We are learning new things together about how to be an intercultural church, how to respond faithfully in the face of the growing climate crisis and what creative ways of worship and outreach are possible. We are indeed a generous and hopeful people, willing to take a risk.

Looking to the future together, what seeds are we planting, and how are we preparing the soil for them to grow? Where are God’s seeds of healing and hope growing up, that we are noticing and nourishing? My prayer is that God will grant us the courage to plant with hope and generosity, willing to take a risk and create space for the Spirit to work in surprising, transformative ways among us and in the world.



Leah Reesor-Keller
MCEC Executive Minister

“What is the kingdom of God like? And to what should I compare it? It is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches.”
- Luke 13:18-21, NRSV

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Caring for MCEC



Arli Klassen
Moderator
First Mennonite Church



Steph Chandler Burns
Secretary
Erb Street Mennonite Church



Suzanne Bender
Council Member
Steinmann Mennonite Church



Felipe Gonzalía
Council Member
First Mennonite Church



Diane Lichti
Assistant Moderator
Tavistock Mennonite Church



J.D. Penner
Council Member
Toronto United Mennonite Church



Anthony Siegrist
Council Member
Ottawa Mennonite Church



Richard Steinmann
Council Member
Steinmann Mennonite Church



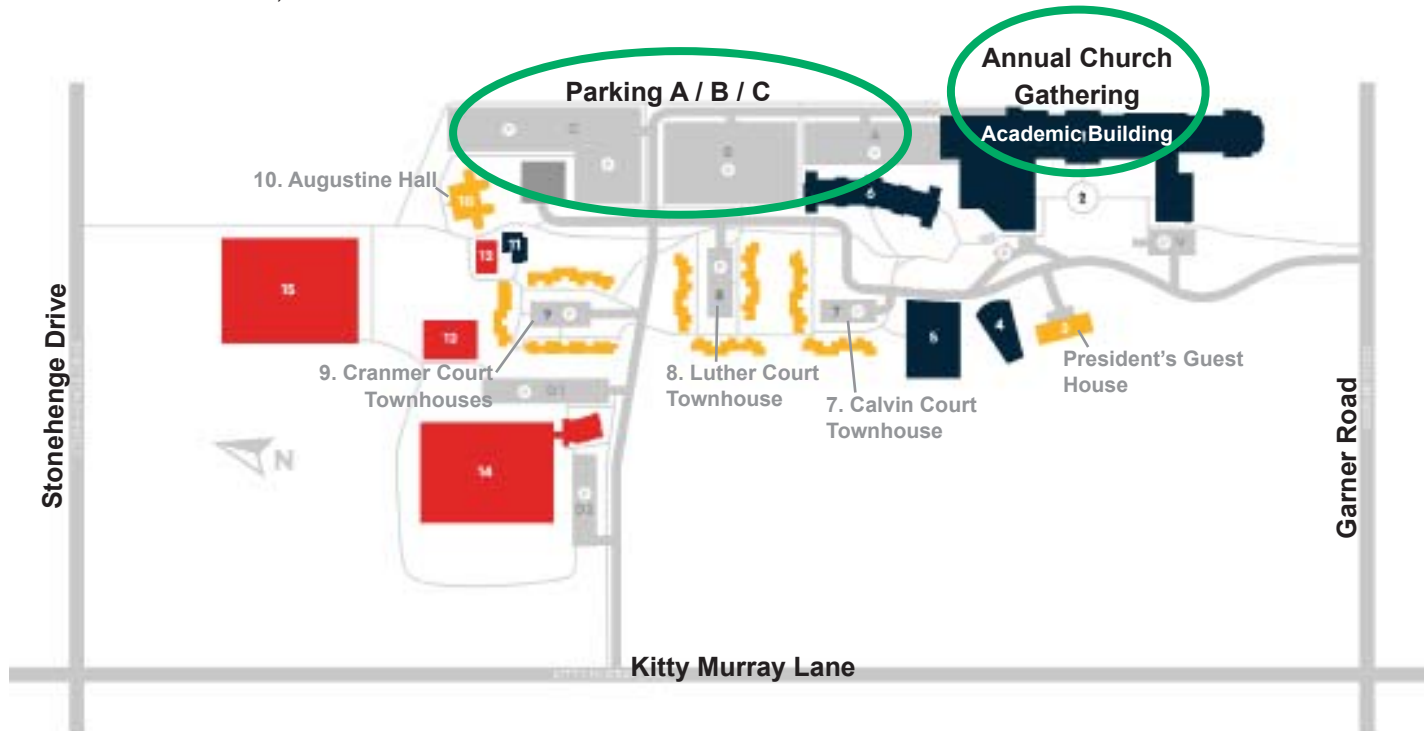
Jason Yuen
Council Member
Toronto Chinese Mennonite
Church



Leah Reesor-Keller
Executive Minister
Ex officio

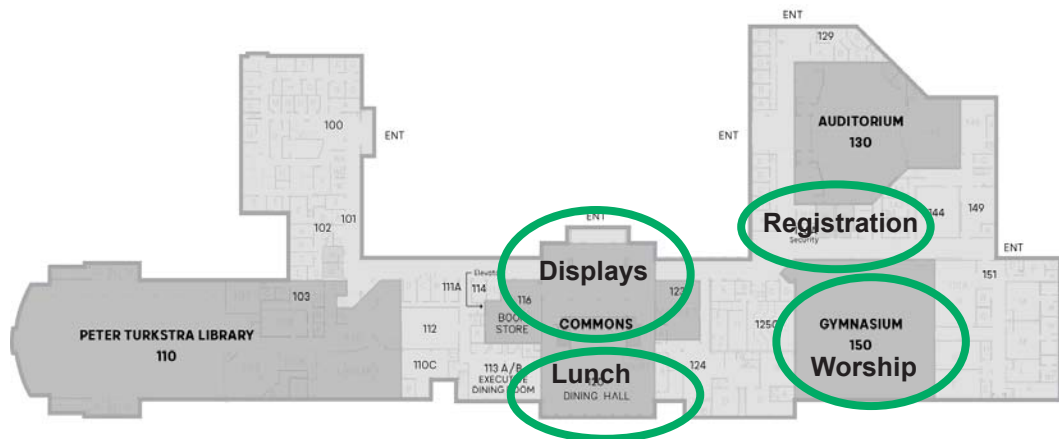
REDEEMER UNIVERSITY

Facility maps 777 Garner Rd. E.
Ancaster, ON L9K 1J4



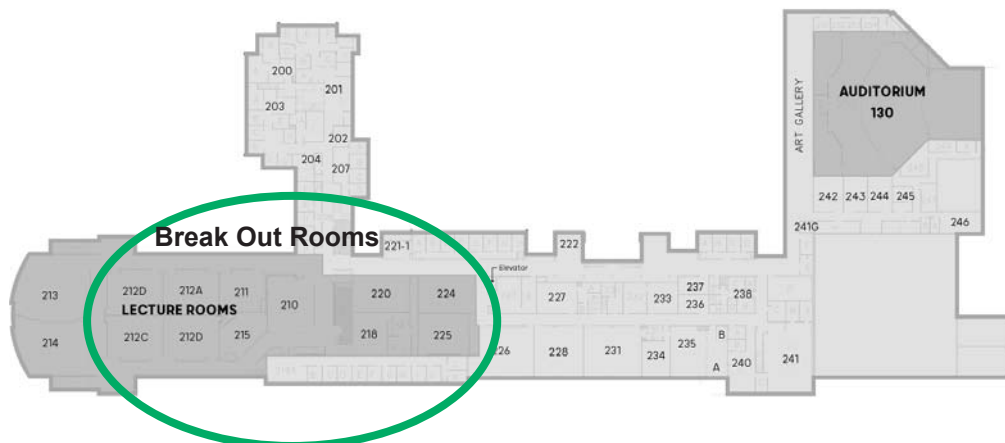
First Floor

- Registration
- Main Session
- Dining Hall
- Displays



Second Floor

- Break Out Rooms



LOGISTICS

In-person and online meeting details



Pandemic Protocols

Masks will not be required at the Annual Church Gathering. However, we do ask that everyone bring a mask. There are varying levels of comfort with mask-wearing and we ask that everyone be aware of their surroundings. If someone is close by and is wearing a mask, please be open to wearing a mask alongside them. This will decrease anxiety and is a simple way that we can care for each other. We will follow Public Health and Redeemer University guidelines. These guidelines are subject to change. All registrants will receive communication the week of the Gathering to confirm pandemic protocols.

We know that these are uncertain times. We ask in-person guests to please self-monitor for symptoms and switch to an online experience if you test positive for or show symptoms of Covid. At any time, for any reason, you can switch your in-person registration to an online experience by contacting Joan Schooley at jschooley@mcec.ca.



How We Communicate With Each Other

- Floor privileges are extended to all attendees - both in-person and online participants.
- Please treat each other with respect in Christian love.
- Identify yourself and your congregation/organization before making your remarks.
- 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 on the floor or have a different view.
- Keep your remarks brief to allow others time to speak.
- Allow everyone who wants to speak an opportunity to do so before speaking a second time to the same motion.
- Voting privileges are reserved for delegates.



French Translation

French translation will be available via Zoom for both in-person and online guests. You will need to bring your device and headphones. Wi-Fi is available.



Offering

Four ways to give:

1. Online at www.mcec.ca/giving
2. E-transfer to financeoffice@mcec.ca
3. Offering envelopes will be provided on tables at in-person meeting
4. Mail offering to MCEC, 201-50 Kent Ave., Kitchener, ON N2G 3R1
Attention: Annual Church Gathering



Wi-Fi

Wi-Fi is available at Redeemer University.



On-line Connection

If you are attending online, we will be connected with Zoom. You will receive a registration link when you register. The main sessions and a break out room will be available online. A moderator will be available on Zoom for questions and comments.

Friday Offering

Support the resourcing and training of church planters and new congregations and enable them to participate and attend the Church Planters Retreat and ACG through travel subsidy.

Saturday Offering

Support the Leadership Formation Fund to enable pastors who are pursuing workshops, degree programs and sabbaticals.

LOGISTICS

In-person and online meeting details



Voting

Voting privileges are for delegates only. Upon registration you will indicate whether you are attending ACG as a delegate or as an attendee.

In-person voting: Facilitated by moderator. Usually done with a show of hands for “yes” and a show of hands for “no.”

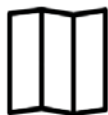
On-line voting: Through the polling feature of Zoom. Some households will have one delegate per screen and some will have two delegates per screen:

1st Delegate Choose:

- Delegate 1 - yes
- Delegate 1 - no

2nd Delegate Choose:

- Delegate 2 - yes
- Delegate 2 - no



Displays

Please visit our partners in ministry at their displays located in the hallway as indicated on the facility map.



Congregational Mailing

There are packages of the *Sprout* publication for your congregation. Thank you for helping us deliver them! Pick up is by the registration table.



Name Tags

Please help us recycle the name tag holders used in the in-person meeting. At the end of the Gathering please remove the white name tag, tuck the string inside and leave in the boxes at the door.



Evaluation

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



Creation Care Audit

Caleb Gingrich Regehr will be conducting an creation care audit of our Gathering.



Listening Team

We will have a listening team who will pay close attention to what they are hearing at the Gathering. Please feel free to approach them if you have a concern or question about what you have heard or are experiencing at our Gathering. Thank you Listening Team.



Parliamentarian

Aldred Neufeldt is our parliamentarian and advises us on procedural process when necessary. Thank you Aldred.



Prayer

Mennonite Spiritual Directors of Eastern Canada have formed a prayer circle and are praying for our gathering.

SCHEDULE

Our time together

Friday, April 29, 2022

6:00 p.m.	Registration
7:00 - 9:00	Worship with Lao Mennonite Fellowship Canada <i>Becoming A Global Church</i> Jeanette Hanson, Mennonite Church Canada Director, International Witness Celebration of Congregations - page 13 Discernment Documents Offering - Support the resourcing and training of church planters and new congregations and enable them to participate and attend the Church Planters Retreat and ACG through travel subsidy. Celebration of Pastors - 30 pastors received and recognized in MCEC Communion
9:00	Celebration Reception and Fellowship

Saturday, April 30, 2022

8:00 a.m.	Registration and Refreshments
9:00	Worship with Lao Mennonite Fellowship Canada <i>The Thanksgiving Address</i> Janis Monture, Executive Director Woodland Cultural Centre Celebration of MCEC Ministry - page 17-32 Discernment Documents Minutes & Actions Introduce Slate - Gladys Bender, Gift Discernment Committee Chair Financial Statements
10:30	Break
10:45	Worship with Lao Mennonite Fellowship Canada <i>Courageous Imagination</i> : Leah Reesor-Keller, Executive Minister Table/Zoom Discussion : Listening for God - page 33-34 Discernment Docs
12:00 noon	Lunch
12:45 p.m.	Informal Break Out Rooms - pg 10 Discernment Documents
1:30 p.m.	Worship with Lao Mennonite Fellowship Canada <i>Courageous Imagination Reporting / Open Mic</i> Celebration of Nationwide Community of Faith Mennonite Church Canada - Doug Klassen, Executive Minister Mennonite Church British Columbia - Garry Janzen, Executive Minister Celebration of MCEC Ministry Spending Plan - page 40-42 Discernment Documents Slate of Volunteers Offering - Support the Leadership Formation Fund to enable pastors pursuing workshops or degree programs and sabbaticals Celebration of MCEC Ministry Identity Statements and Priorities - page 33-34 Discernment Documents
4:30	Closing Worship



Lao Mennonite Fellowship of Canada is the following MCEC Congregations:

- Grace Lao Mennonite Church, Kitchener, ON
- Grace New Life Mennonite Church, Hamilton, ON
- Lao Canadian Evangelical Mennonite Church, Toronto, ON
- Lao Christian Fellowship, St. Catharines, ON

BREAK OUT ROOMS

Learning together

Register for an informal break out room which will take place after lunch on Saturday. These are informal discussion groups. Learn more about MCEC ministry. **Courageous Imagination 2023** with Leah Reesor-Keller is the hybrid option.



Finding a Pastor in 2022 (and what does it mean to be a pastor in 2022?)

Marilyn Rudy-Froese
Church Leadership Minister

Pastoral leadership isn't the same as it was. Congregational search processes are taking longer to complete. Ministry roles and positions have changed. And yet, God is still at work, calling people to ministry. Join the church leadership staff for a conversation about the evolving nature of pastoral leadership and ministry transitions, and partnering with God on this journey.



Climate Action within the Mennonite Church

John Reimer, Operations Director
Sara DeWeerd, Stirling Ave. Mennonite Church
Shannon Neufeldt, Toronto United Mennonite
Is your congregation taking action? How are we responding nationwide, regionally and as congregations?



Eco-Ministry

Wendy Janzen
Eco-Minister

From Forest Church to Church of the Wild, how can engaging with God's creation deepen our faith and lead to new expressions of church? How does our worship, ministry and witness connect with how we care for God's creation?



Courageous Imagination 2032 (Hybrid Option)

Leah Reesor-Keller
Executive Minister

Join Leah Reesor-Keller for a conversation about how the proposed MCEC identity statement and priorities may shape and change us as a church body together following Jesus. Who are we together? What is the church God is calling us to become 10 years from now? What do we hope will grow from the seeds that we are planting and entrusting to God today? What do you think your congregation might look like in 10 years? As a regional church what might we be like?



Intercultural Ministry

Fanosie Legesse
Intercultural Mission Minister

We believe God is calling MCEC to be a diverse, inclusive and intercultural church body. What does this mean for us as congregations and as a regional church? A church that fosters intercultural identity learns how to embrace and celebrate difference, which in turn enriches its worship and ministry. Join Fanosie for an engaging conversation about challenges, encouragement and vision of growing into an intercultural church.

BREAK OUT ROOMS

Learning together



What in the world is God up to? International Witness

Jeanette Hanson

Director, International Witness

How can you Witness God at work in your global family of faith? How can the experience of your siblings in faith inform, inspire and ignite us in following Jesus here in Canada? Hear voices from Philippines, Ethiopia, China, Colombia and more. Learn how you are part of what God is up to in the world.



Palestine-Israel Network

Kathy Bergen, MCEC Palestine-Israel Network Working Group

Discover how together we can educate ourselves, engage our neighbours and encourage sustainable justice and peace for Palestinians and Israelis. The MCEC Palestine-Israel Network (PIN) builds relationships and advocates for peace and justice in Israel and Palestine.



Developing and Using Land and Territory Acknowledgements

Rebecca Seiling and Peter Haresnape

MCC Ontario and MCEC Truth & Reconciliation Working Group

Over the past decade many churches and other communities have created written or spoken Land (or Territorial)

Acknowledgements to begin worship services and include on websites, bulletins, etc. We will explore why this practice is a meaningful way to explore and express solidarity with Indigenous

Nations, and how it can be a part of worship. We will identify potential problems and things to consider when creating a statement for use by your congregation. Come with listening ears and a copy of your own community's land acknowledgement if one exists already.



Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary Alumni and More

Doug Amstutz, AMBS Development Associate for Canada

Calling all AMBS alumni - a great opportunity to spend time together, reconnect and recall AMBS moments. Future students or those who know students who are currently attending AMBS can hear first-hand stories from those who have attended AMBS. We value our alumni community. We hope to continue to encourage you in the ministries to which you have been called.



Planting Mustard Seeds at Home

"Family on Mission is the music to the lyrics of discipleship."

Sean East and Janel Hiemstra, INNOVATE

Family on Mission is the environment where discipleship thrives. Whatever your family looks like; be it a biological, blended, friends, extended community or whatever else, that is the place that God wants to transform into a seedbed for discipleship. Come to hear leaders in the INNOVATE Network share principles and simple practices to encourage mustard seeds of discipleship to sprout and grow in your home and neighbourhood.

CONGREGATIONAL MILESTONES

A time for celebration

Bethel Mennonite Church (Elora)

75 years

The Bethel Mennonite congregation was formally organized on December 12, 1947 with 26 members. The congregation originated through outreach of the Elmira and Floradale Mennonite churches. Over the past 75 years Bethel has ministered to families in the Elora, Elmira, Alma areas and beyond through women's and men's groups, youth events, a booth at the Elmira Maple Syrup Festival, Vacation Bible School, connections with Welcome Inn in Hamilton, and several ministry trips to Grenada, Ethiopia, Texas and Illinois, to name a few. They have nurtured and supported many people from the congregation who have become missionaries and pastors throughout the world. Dave Tiessen is the current pastor and we celebrate with Bethel Mennonite Church as they mark 75 years of ministry.



Bethel MYF Homecoming in 2014: A celebration of God's faithfulness at Bethel Mennonite Church.

MEMBERSHIP

Provisional and full membership transitions

PROVISIONAL CONGREGATIONS

Centre Béthésda Mennonite de Québec

Centre Béthésda Mennonite de Québec began meeting online and in small prayer groups in late 2019. Due to the pandemic, the church met online through 2020, beginning in-person worship gatherings as restrictions allowed in mid-2021. A congregation composed primarily of immigrants and refugees from Swahili speaking countries in East Africa, Béthésda has a vision to be an incarnational gospel presence for everyone in Quebec City. The congregation worships in French with regular translation into the language(s) of those present. Since the summer of 2021, Béthésda has been renting space from a Salvation Army church.

Pastor Charles Tabena is the lead pastor of Béthésda. They join MCEC as a provisional membership congregation.



Centre Béthésda Mennonite de Québec worships in Quebec City and joins MCEC as a provisional congregation.

Berhan Semay Church of Toronto

Berhan Semay Church of Toronto is an Eritrean congregation who has been serving its community for the past two decades. Berhan Semay translates in English to Heavenly Light. Planted 20 years ago by a visiting Eritrean minister from Sweden, they have grown to a congregation of 200 members with a strong focus on sponsorship and resettlement of refugees.

Bahta Kidane provides pastoral leadership to this congregation. Bahta is the former Mennonite World Conference representative for Eritrea. They join MCEC as a provisional membership congregation.



Berhan Semay Church of Toronto, an Eritrean congregation, joins MCEC as a provisional congregation.

Burning Bush Forest Church

Burning Bush Forest Church began meeting outdoors for worship in March of 2016. They are a small, experimental worshipping group; individuals who have found themselves longing for connection with the Divine Spirit in the natural world. Their name, Burning Bush Forest Church, comes from a verse in Exodus where God speaks to Moses in the form of a burning bush. The voice from the bush instructs Moses: "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." Worship themes the past year have included Winter's Sacred Blessings, Kinship with Creation, Sunset & Stargazing, Encircling Prayer and World Communion.

Wendy Janzen provides leadership to Burning Bush Forest Church. She is an ordained pastor and MCEC Eco-Minister. Burning Bush Forest Church joins MCEC as a Provisional Congregation.



Burning Bush Forest Church, in Kitchener-Waterloo area, joins MCEC as a provisional congregation.

MEMBERSHIP

Provisional and full membership transitions



Église de Dieu Réparateur des Brèches in Montreal joins MCEC as a provisional congregation.



Église Mennonite Agape in Quebec joins MCEC as a provisional congregation.



Goshen Mennonite Church in Ottawa joins MCEC as a provisional congregation.

Église de Dieu Réparateur des Brèches (RDB)

Église de Dieu Réparateur des Brèches is a congregation of Haitian immigrants planted in Montreal more than 25 years ago. They are a group of 100 members, own their worship space and have several rental apartments providing an ongoing source of income to the congregation. RDB worships in French, Creole and English and are drawn to MCEC by the simplicity of the Anabaptist/Mennonite vision in its call to discipleship rooted in Jesus.

Ronald Alexandre provides leadership to this congregation. Église de Dieu Réparateur des Brèches have been in relationship with MCEC over the past ten years and join as a provisional congregation.

Église Mennonite Agape

A group of five people began meeting for prayer in 2019 and Église Mennonite Agape was formed. They have grown to a group of 30 adults and children and have a strong relationship with Famille Assemblée de la Grâce, who introduced them to MCEC. They desire to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and put gospel into action in their under-resourced neighbourhood.

Pastor Jean-Ematiel Bossicot and co-pastor Guy La Monde, along with their congregational leaders, provide leadership to this congregation. Église Mennonite Agape joins MCEC as a provisional congregation.

Goshen Mennonite Church

Replanted in summer of 2020, Goshen Mennonite Church has grown to a group of 60 worshippers in Ottawa. The congregation is composed almost entirely of immigrants and refugees from East Africa and worships in multiple languages including French, English, Swahili, Kirundi and Kinyarwanda with simultaneous translation being a consistent feature of worship. Goshen has an active ministry of welcoming newcomers from Africa and is a place for refugees and immigrants arriving in Canada.

Pastor Francois Machichi provides leadership to this congregation. His son, Moses, leads a vibrant young adult worship ministry. Goshen Mennonite Church joins MCEC as a provisional congregation.

MEMBERSHIP

Provisional and full membership transitions

The Meeting Place

A small urban church plant in Hamilton, The Meeting Place began worshipping together 15 years ago. Sue Carr provides pastoral leadership to this group of young professionals, students and street affected folks. They are a part of a network of churches in Hamilton on mission together - TruCity. They meet in a non-profit coffee shop - 541 Eatery and Exchange - and experience a strong relationship between the church plant and the coffee shop.

Introduced to MCEC through their relationship with The Commons (former MCEC congregation), The Meeting Place is already building connections with MCEC congregations. They seek to be an incarnational mission presence in their Hamilton east side neighbourhood. The Meeting Place joins MCEC as a provisional congregation.



The Meeting Place gathers at 541 Eatery and Exchange in Hamilton. They join MCEC as a provisional congregation.

FULL MEMBERSHIP CONGREGATION

Meheret Evangelical Church

Meheret Evangelical Church joined MCEC in 2017 as a provisional congregation. Established 25 years ago, Meheret worships in Amharic and English and continues to focus on discipleship and nurturing leaders within their congregation. The congregation is one of the largest communities with Ethiopian origins in the Waterloo Region.

Meheret reaches out globally in Ethiopia providing support for Bright World for Blind Women centred in Addis Ababa. Bright World for Blind Women, founded by a church member at Meheret who has been blind since age seven, supports 80 to 100 women in Ethiopia by providing fellowship and training for different trades.

They also partner with a church in Ethiopia and fully support three missionaries to reach the unreached and traditionally resistant communities in the northern part of Ethiopia.

Through Manna for Kids Foundation, also founded by members of Meheret, they support and provide skill-based training to marginalized single women in the city of Debrebrehane, Ethiopia.

Locally they continue to expand gospel outreach in Guelph, Stratford and Hamilton to Ethiopian and Eritrean people whose first languages are Amharic and Tigrinya.

Pastor Yared Seretse provides pastoral leadership to Meheret Evangelical Church. They move to a full member congregation in MCEC and become a recognized congregation in Mennonite Church Canada.



Meheret Evangelical Church youth in Kitchener-Waterloo. Meheret moves to a full membership congregation in MCEC.

MOTIONS

Delegate discernment

Minutes of 2021 Annual Church Gathering

MOTION: “That we accept the minutes of the 34th annual meeting of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, held April 23 and 24, 2021.”

Approval of Executive Council Actions for 2021-2022

MOTION: “That we approve all actions taken by the MCEC Executive Council for the year May 2021 to April 2022.”

Adoption of the Financial Statements FYE January 31, 2022

MOTION: “That we accept the audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2022 as printed.”

Approval of Financial Auditors

MOTION: “That we appoint PricewaterhouseCoopers as auditors for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2023.”

Approval of Slate

MOTION: “That we accept the 2022 - 2023 slate as presented.

Approval of MCEC Spending Plan for 2022-2023

MOTION: “That we accept the 2022-2023 spending plan as printed.”

Acceptance of Identity Statement

MOTION: “That we accept the MCEC Identity Statement as presented.”

Acceptance of Priorities for 2022-2027

MOTION: “That we accept the MCEC Priorities for 2022-2027 as presented.”

“What is the kingdom of God like? And to what should I compare it? It is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches.”
- Luke 13:18-21, NRSV

MINUTES

34th Annual Church Gathering 2021



MCEC

201 - 50 Kent Avenue,
Kitchener ON, N2G 3R1
Telephone: Local 226-476-2500
Toll Free 855-476-2500
Website: www.mcec.ca

**Minutes of MCEC's 34th Annual Church Gathering
Videoconference
Friday, April 23, 2021
7:30 p.m.**

1. OPENING

Leah Reesor-Keller, MCEC Executive Minister, welcomed everyone to the MCEC 34th Annual Church Gathering. The theme for the weekend was *Courageous Imagination*. She used *Voices Together* Hymnal #878 for the land acknowledgement.

2. WORSHIP AND DREAMING TOGETHER

Pastor Rielly McLaren from Windsor Mennonite Fellowship prayed and songs were shared from Waterloo North Mennonite Church and Bethel Ethiopian Evangelical Church. Leah read Isaiah 43:19 – "See, I am doing a new thing! Do you not perceive it!"

3. BREAKOUT ROOMS

Everyone was assigned breakout rooms to greet each other and share one dream or hope that they have for the church, starting with the sentence, "I dream of a church where..."

There were open minded responses. Some of the responses were: a church that can hand the torch to the next generation, full of enthusiastic young people, Anabaptist tradition is understood and shared by all, different ethnic backgrounds can feel at home and welcomed, we can connect with God, voice to a larger culture and speak to social issues that Jesus had related to, everyone loving Jesus, have peace and live together.

4. CELEBRATING GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

Taking time to mark milestones keeps us attuned to how God is at work among us and supporting our worship, discipleship, mission, service and ministry.

Anniversaries: Community Mennonite Church of Stouffville – 25 years
Famille Assemblée de la Grâce - 10 years
Closed Congregations: The Commons in Hamilton (Provisional Membership)
The Network in Kitchener/Waterloo (Church Plant)

5. MCEC IN MINISTRY 2020

- a. **2021 Financial Statements** - God's faithfulness throughout the pandemic year was celebrated. Bob Tiessen, Chair of Finance Council, and Sean East, Financial Manager, reviewed the financial

MINUTES

34th Annual Church Gathering 2021

statements for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2021. The auditors, PricewaterhouseCoopers, did not see any issues during their audit.

There was a lot of uncertainty last year due to the pandemic. Individual giving remained strong despite the epidemic. Church giving was down compared to the budget, but most churches made up the difference at the end of the year. 32% of church giving was received from November 2020 to January 2021. Interest income was lower than budgeted due to reduced interest rates related to the pandemic. MCEC received a government subsidy to help with payroll costs. We had \$25,000 more revenue this year with the government subsidy than what we had budgeted.

MCEC was able to grant the total budgeted amount to our partner organizations. MCEC donated \$7,225 to the Mennonite World Conference Global Sharing Fund for the matching funds challenge by Mennonite Church Canada.

Spending was less than what we had budgeted due to less travel and fewer in-person events. Overall, MCEC had a balanced year and we were able to put money back into the restricted funds.

On behalf of the Executive Council, Bob Tiessen moved, and Craig Frere, Community Mennonite Fellowship, seconded the motion to accept the audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2021, as printed. Carried.

- b. **LEGACY INITIATIVES FUND UPDATE** - The Legacy Initiatives funding has been used in various ways since 2013. While we have always tithed to the wider church and used some funds for operations, the majority has gone to making disciples, forming leaders and supporting congregations. Since the size of the fund is larger than expected at its inception, the finance council and executive council are looking at how to use the fund going forward. A process to get a wide range of views is being developed.
- c. **Approval of Auditors** - *Bob Tiessen moved, and Nancy Frey, Listowel Mennonite Church, seconded the motion to appoint PricewaterhouseCoopers as auditors for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2022. Carried.*

6. MCEC IN MINISTRY

Being in tune with God's mission of reconciliation in our world means aligning ourselves with opportunities to support where God is reconciling people across differences. The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly impacted all of us and changed how we do ministry as a regional church. Many programs and activities have been able to adapt to a virtual format and continue.

Leah introduced four breakout rooms for people to attend for 30 minutes:

- Leadership Update with Marilyn Rudy-Froese, Church Leadership Minister
- Mission Update with Norm Dyck, Mission Minister
- Finance Update with Sean East, Financial Manager
- *Courageous Imagination* with Leah Reesor-Keller, Executive Minister

MINUTES

34th Annual Church Gathering 2021

7. SENDING WORSHIP

Arli gave brief announcements and recognized ministry partners. Cornelius Klassen from Vineland United Mennonite Church led closing worship. First Hmong Mennonite Church led the closing song. Arli closed with the benediction.

Adjourned: 9:03 pm

Minutes of MCEC's 34th Annual Church Gathering Videoconference Saturday, April 24 2021

1. OPENING WORSHIP AND WELCOME

Arli Klassen, Moderator, opened the Saturday morning session with a welcome.

2. MAKING KIMCHI WITH PABLO KIM

Arli Klassen introduced Pablo Kim.

Through his workshop of making kimchi, Pablo inspired participants to think about being church together. Using the chat feature, he asked for images or metaphors on diversity and differences.

Pablo Kim introduced Jinah Im, and she summarized, through video, what kimchi means to the Korean culture. As we discussed how to build a healthy Christian community, kimchi gave us some good insights to chew on.

- a. Kimchi is accessible to everyone, rich to poor
- b. Kimchi has been contextualized; different kinds of kimchi depending on geographical condition, local ingredients and recipe of each household
- c. Kimchi making is communal work
- d. Kimchi is the art of fermentation; it takes time and transforms as it ferments
- e. Kimchi has its own mission; it cannot stay as cabbage kimchi – we are called to serve in various ways

Pablo showed the diversity wheel with factors that make us so diverse.

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. Comment on how we are similar and different from each other.
2. Are differences good or bad? Why and why not?
3. How are we supposed to be a church with such diversity and differences? Should we accept differences, or should we simply cover differences?

MINUTES

34th Annual Church Gathering 2021

Pablo advocated for an intercultural church that is based on Anabaptist/Mennonite faith. Differences should be respected, embraced and engaged. Differences and similarities are important in becoming an intercultural church.

Pablo introduced a *Continuum on Becoming an Anti-Racist and Intercultural Individual and Institution* as a topic for conversation in the second breakout room.

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. Where is your church on this continuum?
2. What can you do to move to the next stage?
3. What support does your church need to move forward?

Becoming an intercultural church is God's vision for us as a church and for society. It is tricky, messy and smelly. God shaped and created us to be an authentic church that respects differences.

3. MCEC DISCERNMENT

a. **Introduction of Executive Council Members** – Moderator, Arli Klassen, introduced executive council members.

b. **Minutes of 2020 Annual Church Gathering**

Ernie Harris, Executive Council, moved and Ron Rempel, Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church, seconded the motion to *accept the minutes of the annual meeting of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, held April 25, 2020 on Zoom*. Carried.

c. **Review and Accept Executive Council Actions**

Ernie Harris moved and Maciel Arias, Toronto Mennonite New Life Church, seconded the motion to *approve all actions taken by the MCEC Executive Council for the year May 2020 to April 2021*. Carried.

7. MCEC in Ministry - Council Update

Brian Quan, Assistant Moderator, directed participants to the staff reports posted online.

Brian introduced Michael Pahl, Mennonite Church Manitoba's Executive Minister, who spoke via video.

Brian introduced Doug Klassen, Mennonite Church Canada Executive Minister, who shared a report from the past year.

8. LUNCH BREAK

9. OPEN MIC

Arli responded to questions from participants.

How is the new approach to financing international ministries working? Jeanette Hanson, Mennonite Church Canada's Director for International Witness, replied that the new funding model had a goal for at least 50% of the cost for each program to be funded relationally. While it was a slow start, this

MINUTES

34th Annual Church Gathering 2021

last year saw a generous response from individuals and congregations. Some programs were funded up to 90%. Donors asked to be more involved through networks that connect them with their siblings in the global church and witness workers. How do we fund the programs that do not attract relational funding as well as others? Part of the funds from each regional church make up the budget for international ministries.

Doug Klassen responded to the question about Mennonite Church Canada worship services that were shared on-line last summer. Services shared on-line had 750 to 1000 views.

The Zoom session chat had comments about what it means to be an intercultural and anti-racist church: assuming things, not assuming things, and looking more deeply to see the hidden barriers and convictions that are among us.

What does worship look like in the future when Zoom has brought us into each other's homes during the pandemic? How do churches prepare for the "new normal?" What are we learning now that will equip us to move into the future? [The MCEC Learning Commons](#) webpage has an ongoing conversation with pastors about these questions.

Are there summary documents from initial conversations around Courageous Imagination strategic planning process? MCEC is creating a website to hold all the information that has come out of initial conversations with the executive council, executive team, along with continual reflections and learnings of what is going forward. The [Courageous Imagination](#) webpage is always evolving. Check it often for new information.

How do we reflect on and answer the questions on equity within our own congregations, cities, country and around the world that have become even more visible to us during the pandemic?

Is it time to revisit our assumptions with what we believe to be the core gospel message and how diverse our views are because it affects our view of mission? It is a more challenging way to think of theological diversity within our church and how we engage those differences.

4. MCEC IN MINISTRY

- a) **Approval of 2021 – 2022 Spending Plan** – The spending plan is an important reflection on how MCEC congregations work together to support MCEC priorities of making disciples, growing congregations and forming leaders. Sean East introduced and explained the spending plan. This year is a placeholder budget, similar to last year's as the pandemic continues and Courageous Imagination informs the future.

The Mennonite Church Canada Joint Council is in discussion with Regional Churches on a joint revenue agreement to fund Mennonite Church Canada. Mennonite Church Canada has operated on a surplus for the past few years and the agreement is a conscious effort to keep more money in the Regional Churches to support their ministries locally.

Sean answered questions. There are many electronic options for churches to give their donations.

MINUTES

34th Annual Church Gathering 2021

Bob Tiessen moved and Rick Martin, Floradale Mennonite Church, seconded the motion to *accept the 2021 – 2022 spending plan as presented*. Carried.

- b) **Approval of Slate** – The Gift Discernment Committee is active year-round, actively seeking individuals to fill vacancies on councils, committees and partner organization boards. These roles provide very important leadership across our community of faith.

Gladys Bender, Gift Discernment Chair, moved and Jeff Taylor, Toronto United Mennonite Church, seconded the motion to *accept the 2021 – 2022 slate as presented*. Carried.

Gladys thanked outgoing executive council members Ernie Harris and Brian Quan. Ernie Harris offered a prayer of thanks for the gifts of volunteers.

5. CELEBRATION OF MCEC COMMUNITY OF CONGREGATIONS

Norm Dyck, Mission Minister, introduced two new congregations to MCEC with provisional status.

- a) **Hiyaw Amalak Evangelical Church Ottawa** is a congregation of Eritrean and Ethiopian immigrants in Ottawa. They began meeting as a congregation more than eight years ago with a vision to reach all Tigrinya-speaking people in Ottawa and to be the presence of Jesus to all.
- b) **Ma Destinée** is a new congregation of Haitian immigrants which began renting space for worship at Hochma in Montreal. The congregation has a dream for being a vision of hope in their wider community. It is a small congregation of approximately 25 individuals.

Everyone participated in a litany and prayer.

6. COURAGEOUS IMAGINATION NEXT STEPS

Leah Reesor-Keller gave a brief overview of the Courageous Imagination strategic planning process. Mollee Moua, Courageous Imagination Project Manager, shared some of the specific ways for people to give feedback.

How do we listen for God?

Where is God at work doing new things? Where have we experienced God at work?

Who are we together? What is the church that we are becoming?

How is God calling us as the church together?

How do you feel God is calling the church to respond and adapt to the changing local and global context?

7. CLOSING

Arli closed the session with comments, announcements and gratitude to those who attended and planned the gathering.

MINUTES

34th Annual Church Gathering 2021

286 registered, around 200 attended at one time, 129 delegates, 100 – 125 people voted, quorum was 35 congregations

Closing Worship

Brian Quan closed with a prayer of sending and benediction.

Adjourned: 2:00 pm

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ACTIONS

May 2021 - March 2022

Resolutions of May 18, 2021

- a. Approved minutes of March 16, 2021 meeting by consensus with an amendment for clarification
- b. Appointed Diane Lichti as assistant moderator and Steph Chandler Burns as secretary
- c. Affirmed a working group to develop a Memo of Understanding with Conrad Grebel University College
- d. Accepted the May 2021–April 2022 executive council work plan
- e. Agreed to apologize for further harm caused to survivor, family and wider church by MCEC in the 1990s as per the draft press release

Resolutions of June 22, 2021

- a. Affirmed the minutes of the May 18, 2021 meeting
- b. Removed David Martin, Brent Charette and Shirley Redekop as signing authority for all MCEC accounts and holdings at Kindred Credit Union
- c. Granted Arli Klassen, moderator, signing authority and full access to all accounts and holdings of MCEC with Kindred Credit Union
- d. Supported the direction of Mennonite Church Canada's Shared Revenue Agreement Part A: Congregational Giving and will give future consideration to Part B: Agreed Work Toward an Expanded Agreement

Resolutions of September 22, 2021

- a. Approved the minutes of the June 22, 2021 meeting with one revision

Resolutions of November 16, 2021

- a. Approved the minutes of September 22, 2021 meeting
- b. Granted John Reimer, operations director, signing authority for day-to-day operations of MCEC that bind the corporation for cheque signing and contract, and full access to all accounts and holdings of MCEC with Kindred Credit Union and Abundance Canada, effective November 16, 2021
- c. Granted John Reimer signing authority for all cheques of any amount subject to the Finance Policies of MCEC, effective November 16, 2021
- d. Accepted the gift discernment committee's recommendation to extend Arli Klassen's term as moderator for one additional year to April 30, 2023, to be approved by delegates at 2022 Annual Church Gathering.
- e. Agreed to add a moderator-elect to the executive council as a fully functioning member as of May 1, 2022
- f. Agreed to invite Gladys Bender to renew her term on Mennonite Church Canada's Nominating Committee

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ACTIONS

May 2021 - March 2022

Resolutions of February 5, 2022

- a. Approved the minutes of November 16, 2021 meeting
- b. Appointed Yoel Trakoon Masyawong as MCEC's representative on Mennonite Church Canada's Joint Council, completing Ly Vang's term (24-0) before beginning his first term (27-1).
- c. Accepted recommendation from gift discernment committee to commend Ben Cassels as moderator-elect to be approved by delegates in April 2022
- d. Approved provisional membership for Burning Bush Forest Church, Centre Béthésda Mennonite de Quebec, Église de Dieu Réparateur des Brèches, Goshen Mennonite Church and The Meeting Place
- e. Accepted the MCEC identity statement and priorities for recommendation and adoption by the delegates in April 2022.

Resolutions of March 22, 2022

- a. Approved the minutes of February 5, 2022 meeting
- b. Adopted the Audited Financial Statements for Fiscal Year End 2021 as printed, for delegate approval at the 2022 Annual Church Gathering
- c. Appointed PricewaterhouseCoopers as Auditors for Fiscal Year End 2022 to be approved at the 2022 Annual Church Gathering.
- d. Accepted the Financial Statements FYE 2021 to be approved by delegates at 2022 Annual Church Gathering
- e. Adopted the 2022 Spending Plan, to be approved by delegates at 2022 Annual Church Gathering
- f. Approved provisional membership for Berhan Semay Church of Toronto and Église Mennonite Agape.
- g. Approved full membership for Meheret Evangelical Church
- h. Affirmed the 2022–2023 slate for adoption by the delegates in April 2022
- i. Approved the minutes of the 34th annual meeting of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, held April 23 and 24, 2021 for adoption by the delegates in April 2022



MCEC SLATE 2022-2023

MCEC COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES

Executive Council

23-1	Diane Lichti	Assistant Moderator	Tavistock
23-1	Richard Steinmann	Finance Council Rep	Steinmann
23-2	J.D. Penner		Toronto United
23-3	Arli Klassen*	Moderator	First Mennonite
24-0	Hyejung Jessie Yum		Danforth
24-0	James Barber		Hagerman
24-1	Felipe Gonzalia		First Mennonite
25-1	Ben Cassels*	Moderator-elect	WKUMC
25-2	Steph Chandler Burns	Secretary	Erb Street
<i>Leah Reesor-Keller, Ex officio, MCEC Executive Minister</i>			

**Gift Discernment Committee, with affirmation from Executive Council, recommends extending Arli Klassen's term as moderator by one year, to be succeeded by Ben Cassels in 2023. This succession plan will strengthen organizational continuity and support of the Courageous Imagination discernment and strategic planning process.*

Finance Council

23-1	Richard Steinmann		Steinmann
24-2	Robert Tiessen	Chair	Toronto United
25-1			
25-2	Michael Steinmann		The Gathering
25-2	Karen Heese		Hagerman
<i>John Reimer Ex officio, MCEC Operations Director</i>			
<i>Leah Reesor-Keller, Ex officio, MCEC Executive Minister</i>			

Leadership Council

23-1	Jen Helmuth		Erb Street
23-2	Karen Sheil		Harrow
24-0	Chris Hutton		Niagara United
24-2	Alissa Bender		Hamilton
25-1	Kendra Whitfield-Ellis		Waterloo North
25-1	Matthew Isert Bender		Nith Valley
25-1	Kim Penner		Stirling Ave.
<i>Marilyn Rudy-Froese, Ex officio, MCEC Church Leadership Minister</i>			

Mission Council

23-1	Joseph Raltong		Chin Christian
23-1	Visanou Saythavy		Grace New Life
23-2	Rebecca Riek		First Mennonite
24-1	Vic Ratzlaff		Westview
24-2	Judith McCartney		SoulHouse Church
25-2	Kara Carter	Chair	Wellesley
25-2	Andie Myriam Joseph		Famille Assemblée de la Grâce
<i>Norm Dyck, Ex officio, MCEC Mission Minister</i>			

23, 24, 25 is the year the term is complete (ie 24-1 = individual's first term ends April 30 2024)

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

Gift Discernment

Appointed by Executive Council, Accountable to Executive Council

23-2	Gladys Bender	Chair	Steinmann
24-1	Darlene Gingerich		Steinmann
25-1	Marlene Toews Janzen		Ottawa
25-1	Charleen Jongejan Harder		North Leamington
25-2	Jonathan Brubacher		Elmira
	<i>Leah Reesor-Keller, Ex officio, MCEC Executive Minister</i>		

MCEC REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Canadian Multifaith Federation (CMF) Board

23-1	Judith Stamp	Toronto United
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Conrad Grebel University College Board (3 consecutive 3-year terms)

Term begins in October

23-3	Carol Ringer	Toronto United
23-1	Louise Wideman	Vineland United
24-2	Morgan Grainger	The Gathering
24-3	Jim Tiessen	Hamilton
24-3	Paul Fieguth	Waterloo North
25-1	_____	
25-2	Roger Kehl	First Mennonite
25-2	Donny Cheung	Toronto United
25-3	Andrew Roth	Erb Street

Detweiler Meeting House Board

23-1	Roy Scheerer	Wellesley
24-1	_____	
25-1	Karey Musselman	Rockway

Mennonite Central Committee Ontario Board

24-1	Bruce Yoder	Listowel
25-2	Keith Regehr	First Mennonite

Mennonite Publishing Services Board

25-1	Karen Heese	Hagerman
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Ontario Mennonite Music Camp Board

24-1	Kendall Jongejan Harder	North Leamington
25-2	Sara Fretz	Stirling Ave
25-2	Melinda Metzger	St. Jacobs

23, 24, 25 is the year the term is complete (ie 24-1 = individual's first term ends April 30 2024)

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

Rockway Mennonite Collegiate Board

Term begins in November

23-1 Elizabeth Klassen
24-1 Tim Hedrick
25-1 Rene Baergen

Rockway
Waterloo North
First Mennonite

Silver Lake Mennonite Camp Board

25-1 Edna Bejarano

Toronto United

United Mennonite Educational Institute Board

Term begins in November

25-2 Caroline Hamm

North Leamington

Warden Woods Community Centre Board

25-1 _____
25-1 _____

Mennonite Church Canada Assembly Delegates – 26 regional church delegates
Gathering 2022, Edmonton, Alberta : Friday, July 29, to Monday, August 1

	Leah Reesor-Keller	MCEC Executive Minister	
	Fanosie Legesse	MCEC Staff	
	Arli Klassen	MCEC Moderator	
	Yoel Trakoon Masyawong	MC Canada Joint Council	
	Ben Cassels	MCEC Executive Council	
22-1	Diane Lichti		Tavistock
22-1	Alissa Bender		Hamilton
22-1	Hyejung Jessie Yum		Danforth
22-1	Rich Steinmann		Steinmann
22-1	Merveille Mwankin		Hagerman
22-2	Steph Chandler Burns		Erb Street
22-2	J.D. Penner		Toronto United
22-2	Roberson Mbayamvula		Hagerman
22-2	Gordon Driedger		Petitcodiac
22-2	Anneli Loepp Thiessen		Ottawa
22-2	Gladys Bender		Steinmann
22-2	Mesfin Woldearegay		Bethel Ethiopian

23, 24, 25 is the year the term is complete (ie 24-1 = individual's first term ends April 30 2024)
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

Mennonite Church Canada Joint Council

	Arli Klassen	MCEC Moderator	First Mennonite
24-0	Yoel Trakoon Masyawong	MCEC Constituency Rep	Grace Lao

Mennonite Church Canada Nominating Committee Appointee

25-2	Gladys Bender	Steinmann
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23, 24, 25 is the year the term is complete (ie 24-1 = individual's first term ends April 30 2024)
 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

NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

Meet MCEC's new elected volunteers



James Barber, Executive Council

My priorities for us as a church is to clarify the most important issues that need attention (and have the courage to see tough ones) and create a space where all voices are heard. I want to be part of a team together finding creative ways to improve, to celebrate what we are doing and becoming with God and to have fun and enjoy those around me.

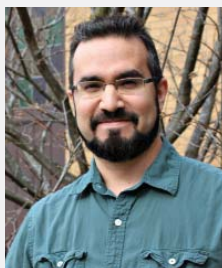
James is chair at Hagerman Mennonite Church in Markham. He has served as an MCEC representative on the Conrad Grebel University College. He is a member of the Markham Stouffville Ministerial Council and is an Insurance Analytics Sales Director.



Ben Cassels, Executive Council

I believe in the work of MCEC, both who we are but also who we can be together. The good news of Jesus and the Church as ambassadors is that Christ's peace, love and grace is as relevant and needed in our communities as much today as ever. I believe MCEC is and can be a place of welcome, hope, healing and inclusion for all. My desire is to use my gifts to serve MCEC as a whole as we continue in this work and learn new ways of being God's people in our world today.

Ben is an MCEC ordained minister, has served on the MCEC Leadership Council and is a graduate of the MCEC Transitioning into Ministry program. He was a Church Resource Worker in South Sudan in 2010. Ben is pastor at Waterloo-Kitchener United Mennonite Church.



Chris Hutton, Leadership Council

I would like to see our churches evolve in ministry, evangelism and community life amidst changing modern realities and to see a movement that invites people to follow Jesus regardless of ethnicity or cultural background. I would also like to see a continued revitalization of our historic distinctives on peace, non-violence, simplicity and personal heart-felt faith.

Chris has served in the areas of youth leadership and home church leadership in various local churches. He was chaplain on the University of Waterloo Campus for five years. Chris is an MCEC ordained minister and is pastor of youth and young adult ministries at Niagara United Mennonite Church.

NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

Meet MCEC's new elected volunteers



Matthew Isert Bender, Leadership Council

I desire the church to be a place where the Spirit is moving and bringing healing and hope to all, both those within and outside of the church. The church is where all are to find a place of belonging, not based on any sort of merit (too often we have limited who belongs based on different measurements of merit or worthiness), but simply because they are created in the image of God and thus are worthy of love and belonging. I desire that the church be an 'oasis' for individuals amidst the journey of life which is spent in the wilderness. The church is a place where we gather around the table and share a meal amidst our enemies, struggles and self doubt.

Matthew is an MCEC ordained minister and a registered social worker. He is currently the executive director of Interfaith Counselling Centre in New Hamburg, ON and is part of Nith Valley Mennonite Church in New Hamburg.



Yoel Trakoon Masyawong Mennonite Church Canada Joint Council

My vision for MCEC is to see the churches become intercultural churches. To be an intercultural church we need to make every effort to be generous, kind and forgiving. We need to create space for everyone to share their gifts and make all voices heard so that we bring everyone to a oneness from unique cultures.

Yoel is an MCEC ordained minister and pastors at Grace Lao Mennonite Church in Kitchener. He has been a council member on both the MCEC leadership and mission councils, serving as chair on mission council. He is a student at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary.



Kim Penner, Leadership Council

My vision for MCEC fits with the outcome of the Courageous Imagination process – that we would affirm MCEC's growing diversity and interculturalism; be open to transformation through relationships and listening; and emphasize community as we share God's love, costly discipleship and intergenerational relationships. Included in this work is ongoing attention to and awareness of how power functions in our local, regional and nationwide churches and a commitment to transparency, peace, justice, love and safety in our institutional ethics.

Kim is a pastor and an academic specializing in theological ethics. She has written extensively and has spoken in many Mennonite congregations on topics related to gender, sexuality, peace, power, discipleship ethics and communal discernment. Kim is pastor at Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church in Kitchener.

NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

Meet MCEC's new elected volunteers



Marlene Toews Janzen, Gift Discernment Committee

I have enjoyed reading what is going on in MCEC: there is a lot of good work being done. I see lots of involvement with diverse communities. I will learn a lot about MCEC through my work with the Gift Discernment Committee.

Marlene is a retired teacher and an adjunct professor at the University of Ottawa. She has been extensively involved at Ottawa Mennonite Church as Sunday School teacher, pianist, choir member, worship committee member and mentor. She has taught ESL classes in Cairo, Egypt but had to leave early in March 2020 because of Covid. She hopes to begin again when it becomes safer to travel and be in Cairo. Marlene attends Ottawa Mennonite Church.



Kendra Whitfield-Ellis, Leadership Council

I have appreciated the leadership and support that MCEC provides to pastors, congregations and to the wider church. There has been an excellent legacy of leadership along the way and I realize that there have also been many challenges for the leadership at MCEC as well.

I have resonated deeply with the vision and goals already existing within MCEC. For example, the time and care taken by leadership council and others in leadership at MCEC to discern very difficult situations around accusations of sexual offence. This vital work asks much of those involved in discernment and often leaves leadership exposed to criticism. Yet, this important call is one that MCEC has met head on and with prayerful discernment. I am so proud to be part of an organization that takes the words of victims seriously, providing due diligence, while also meeting all parties involved with compassion and respect.

Kendra is an MCEC ordained minister and is associate pastor at Waterloo North Mennonite Church. She was on the Leader Magazine writing team for Lent 2021 and is a mentor for the MCEC Transitioning into Ministry program.



Hyejung Jessie Yum, Executive Council

I have visions that MCEC becomes a church body in which people of difference in terms of culture, ethnicity, gender and many other aspects have safe and vibrant dialogues and interactions. I can contribute to this vision with my experience and expertise in facilitation of intercultural relations and global Anabaptist communities across Canada, South Korea, U.S.A, and the Netherlands.

Jessie is an MCEC minister and co-founder of Sowing for Peace which cultivates just peace culture in a multicultural context. She attends and regularly preaches at Danforth Mennonite Church. She is Editor of the Korean Anabaptist Journal, co-chair of The Community of Spiritual Leadership at Mennonite Church Canada and contributor to MC Canada's *A Study Guide for Gathering 2022*. She is a Ph.D. Candidate in Theological Studies, Emmanuel College at the University of Toronto.

MCEC IDENTITY STATEMENT

Courageous Imagination



Identity

**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.**

We believe that God is calling Mennonite Church Eastern Canada to be an Anabaptist Mennonite church; a covenanted partner in Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite World Conference. This is a continuation of a historic tradition that emphasizes: Jesus is the centre of our faith; community is the centre of our life; and reconciliation is the centre of our work. As a community of congregations, we seek to join God's mission in the world, encouraging all to respond to God's gift of love revealed in Jesus, as described in scripture.

Purpose

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

Values

Beloved-ness – All people before God are equal and have dignity, created in God's image.

Spirituality – Worship and prayer ground us in God's love and connect us to the Spirit's movement.

Transformation – We are curious to see what God is doing in our lives and in the world. We are open to change.

Community – We grow, learn and serve best in relationship with others, listening for God together.

Hospitality – Everyone is welcome at God's table of grace.

Peace and justice – We are living into God's Shalom for all creation.

Our identity, purpose and values come together in the vision we hold nationwide as Mennonite Church Canada:

God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world.



Priorities for 2022-2027

- **Navigating Change:** Fostering a culture of learning, innovation and adaptability to equip the church to navigate a season of change. This includes exploring new expressions of following Jesus and being church together.
- **Developing Leaders:** Strengthening leadership and forming faith, equipping individuals to pursue their vocations of church planting, pastoral ministry and lay leadership.
- **Intergenerational Discipleship:** Collaborating with congregations and ministry partners in support of intergenerational discipleship and faith formation, and engaging youth and young adults in leadership development opportunities.
- **Embracing Diversity:** Inviting and challenging the church to explore the variety and richness of God's people. This will require transformation of our hearts, minds, policies and structures as we live out our calling to be a diverse, inclusive and intercultural church body.
- **Seeking Peace and Justice:** Supporting and resourcing congregations to engage peace and justice issues, grounded in Anabaptist-Mennonite theology. Indigenous-Settler relationships, climate action, building intercultural competence and undoing racism are focus areas for this time.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FYE January 31, 2022



STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE 12 MONTH PERIOD ENDED January 31, 2022

	ACTUAL YEAR TO DATE \$	BUDGET YEAR TO DATE \$	OVER (UNDER) BUDGET \$	BUDGET CURRENT YEAR \$
REVENUE				
Revenue - Individual and Estate Donations (MCEC)	\$120,615	\$100,000	\$20,615	\$100,000
Revenue - Individuals & Churches (MC Canada)	\$23,607	\$0	\$23,607	\$0
Revenue - Church Giving	\$1,664,247	\$1,668,035	(\$3,788)	\$1,668,035
Revenue - Relational Witness Giving	\$297,689	\$300,000	(\$2,311)	\$300,000
Revenue - Interest Income	\$157,070	\$163,112	(\$6,042)	\$163,112
Revenue - Government Subsidy	\$3,254	\$0	\$3,254	\$0
	\$2,266,482	\$2,231,147	\$35,335	\$2,231,147
Partner Ministries				
Mennonite Church Canada - Operating	\$500,411	\$500,410	\$1	\$500,410
Mennonite Church Canada - Relational Witness	\$297,689	\$300,000	(\$2,311)	\$300,000
Pass Through Donations	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Mennonite World Conference	\$6,962	\$6,962	(\$0)	\$6,962
Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary	\$40,000	\$40,000	(\$0)	\$40,000
Conrad Grebel University College	\$146,462	\$146,462	(\$0)	\$146,462
Rockway Mennonite Collegiate	\$70,215	\$70,215	(\$0)	\$70,215
United Mennonite Educational Institute	\$26,510	\$26,510	(\$0)	\$26,510
Ontario Mennonite Music Camp	\$2,185	\$2,185	(\$0)	\$2,185
Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp	\$10,923	\$10,923	(\$0)	\$10,923
Silver Lake Mennonite Camp	\$10,923	\$10,923	(\$0)	\$10,923
Willowgrove Camp	\$10,923	\$10,923	(\$0)	\$10,923
Canadian Mennonite	\$84,603	\$84,657	(\$54)	\$84,657
	\$1,207,807	\$1,210,170	(\$2,364)	\$1,210,170
TOTAL OPERATING FUND REVENUE	\$1,058,675	\$1,020,977	\$37,698	\$1,020,977
OPERATING FUND EXPENDITURES				
Executive (Schedule 1)	\$102,688	\$108,158	(\$5,471)	\$108,158
Leadership Resourcing (Schedule 2)	\$145,344	\$162,074	(\$16,730)	\$162,074
Mission Resourcing (Schedule 3)	\$178,177	\$239,812	(\$61,635)	\$239,812
Congregational Resourcing (Schedule 4)	\$141,778	\$149,158	(\$7,380)	\$149,158
Operations (Schedule 5)	\$510,313	\$407,333	\$102,979	\$407,333
Occupancy (Schedule 6)	\$111,241	\$109,346	\$1,894	\$109,346
Total Operating Fund Expenditures	\$1,189,540	\$1,175,883	\$13,657	\$1,175,883
Net Surplus/(Deficit) from Operations	(\$130,865)	(\$154,906)	\$24,042	(\$154,906)
Transfers (to)/from Faithful Steward Fund (Policy)	\$130,865	\$154,906	(\$24,041)	\$154,906
Transfers (to)/from Faithful Steward Fund (Additional)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Operating Fund revenue (expenditures)	(\$0)	(\$0)	\$0	(\$0)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FYE January 31, 2022



SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES FOR THE 12 MONTH PERIOD ENDED January 31, 2022

	ACTUAL YEAR TO DATE \$	BUDGET YEAR TO DATE \$	OVER (UNDER) BUDGET \$	BUDGET CURRENT YEAR \$
Executive (Schedule 1)				
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	(\$928)	\$0	(\$928)	\$0
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$91,370	\$91,658	(\$289)	\$91,658
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$2,075	\$3,500	(\$1,425)	\$3,500
Staff Professional Development	\$1,093	\$500	\$593	\$500
Staff Professional Development Pool	\$6,442	\$9,250	(\$2,808)	\$9,250
Council & Committee Travel & Expenses	\$1,885	\$2,500	(\$615)	\$2,500
Special Projects	\$750	\$750	\$0	\$750
	\$102,688	\$108,158	(\$5,471)	\$108,158
Leadership Resourcing (Schedule 2)				
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	(\$2,779)	(\$14,250)	\$11,472	(\$14,250)
TiM - Fees, Donations, Recoveries	(\$16,087)	(\$38,400)	\$22,313	(\$38,400)
Lebold Banquet - Tickets, Donations, Sponsorships	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$91,211	\$102,374	(\$11,163)	\$102,374
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$2,809	\$4,000	(\$1,191)	\$4,000
Staff Professional Development	\$465	\$500	(\$35)	\$500
Council & Committee Travel & Expenses	\$753	\$1,000	(\$247)	\$1,000
Pastor & Congregational Support	\$15,084	\$19,200	(\$4,116)	\$19,200
TiM Program Expenses	\$16,087	\$38,400	(\$22,313)	\$38,400
Education & Training	\$37,801	\$49,250	(\$11,449)	\$49,250
Lebold Banquet Expenses & Donation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$145,344	\$162,074	(\$16,730)	\$162,074
Mission Resourcing (Schedule 3)				
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	(\$68,443)	(\$43,283)	(\$25,160)	(\$43,283)
Transfers In From Restricted Funds	(\$101,246)	(\$117,942)	\$16,696	(\$117,942)
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$208,154	\$210,037	(\$1,883)	\$210,037
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$13,588	\$12,500	\$1,088	\$12,500
Staff Professional Development	\$762	\$1,000	(\$238)	\$1,000
Council & Committee Travel & Expenses	\$198	\$1,500	(\$1,302)	\$1,500
Education, promotion and outreach	\$2,573	\$5,000	(\$2,427)	\$5,000
Church Planting				
Mission Associates	\$6,500	\$6,000	\$500	\$6,000
Missional leadership development	\$2,170	\$20,000	(\$17,830)	\$20,000
Church plant support	\$97,650	\$107,000	(\$9,350)	\$107,000
International Mission	\$5,998	\$13,000	(\$7,003)	\$13,000
Other Mission Initiatives	\$10,274	\$25,000	(\$14,726)	\$25,000
	\$178,177	\$239,812	(\$61,635)	\$239,812

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FYE January 31, 2022



SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES FOR THE 12 MONTH PERIOD ENDED January 31, 2022

	ACTUAL YEAR TO DATE \$	BUDGET YEAR TO DATE \$	OVER (UNDER) BUDGET \$	BUDGET CURRENT YEAR \$
Congregational Resourcing (Schedule 4)				
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	(\$1,757)	(\$18,750)	\$16,993	(\$18,750)
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$129,660	\$129,908	(\$248)	\$129,908
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$5,726	\$9,750	(\$4,024)	\$9,750
Staff Professional Development	\$1,735	\$1,500	\$235	\$1,500
Council & Committee Travel & Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Education, promotion and outreach	\$0	\$500	(\$500)	\$500
Congregation Resourcing Program Expense	\$1,737	\$1,250	\$487	\$1,250
Y/YA Program Expense	\$4,677	\$25,000	(\$20,323)	\$25,000
New Ministry Initiative Expense	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$141,778	\$149,158	(\$7,380)	\$149,158
Operations (Schedule 5)				
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	(\$68,307)	(\$83,695)	\$15,388	(\$83,695)
Transfer In From Restricted Funds	\$0	(\$10,000)	\$10,000	(\$10,000)
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$473,838	\$411,986	\$61,852	\$411,986
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$1,065	\$4,030	(\$2,965)	\$4,030
Staff Professional Development	\$3,148	\$2,000	\$1,148	\$2,000
Council & Committee Travel & Expenses	\$40	\$500	(\$460)	\$500
Office & Admin Expenses	\$26,857	\$15,400	\$11,457	\$15,400
IT Expenses	\$31,789	\$18,000	\$13,789	\$18,000
Office Equipment and Furniture (expensed)	\$2,686	\$0	\$2,686	\$0
Amortization	\$1,012	\$1,012	\$0	\$1,012
Legal & Audit Expenses	\$28,000	\$22,500	\$5,500	\$22,500
Program Expenses	\$10,184	\$25,600	(\$15,416)	\$25,600
	\$510,313	\$407,333	\$102,979	\$407,333
Occupancy Costs (Schedule 6)				
Rent & CAMS	\$103,312	\$102,846	\$466	\$102,846
Office & Building Maintenance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Insurance	\$7,928	\$6,500	\$1,428	\$6,500
	\$111,241	\$109,346	\$1,894	\$109,346

RESTRICTED FUNDS

Externally restricted funds



Externally Restricted Funds

	Blenheim 1/31/22	Reesor 1/31/22	Mission Capital 1/31/22	Mission Donations 1/31/22
ASSETS				
Cash and Short-term deposits	\$29,511	\$10,283	\$0	\$683,907
Account Receivable	\$210	\$0	\$226,122	\$463
Loans Receivable	\$0	\$0	\$92,000	\$0
Prepaid Expense	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Assets	\$29,721	\$10,283	\$318,122	\$684,370
LIABILITIES				
Accounts Payable	\$27	\$0	\$0	\$0
Loan Payable	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Liabilities	\$27	\$0	\$0	\$0
EQUITY				
Balance Beginning of Year	\$29,093	\$11,165	\$373,151	\$786,280
Interest	\$600	\$218	\$2,971	\$17,551
Donations	\$0	\$0	\$60,875	\$14,788
Other Income	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Transfers In	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$29,694	\$11,383	\$436,997	\$818,620
Expenses	\$0	(\$1,100)	\$0	\$0
Grants and Disbursements	\$0	\$0	(\$4,000)	\$0
Transfers Out	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$99,637)
Balance End of Year	\$29,694	\$10,283	\$432,997	\$718,983
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$29,721	\$10,283	\$318,122	\$684,370

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RESTRICTED FUNDS

Internally restricted funds



	Internally Restricted Funds			
	Faithful	Property	Discretionary	Leadership
	Steward	1/31/22	Retirement &	Formation
	1/31/22	1/31/22	Assistance	1/31/22
ASSETS				
Cash and Short-term deposits	\$853,781	\$0	\$78,742	\$176,664
Account Receivable	\$232,678	\$0	\$38	\$83
Loans Receivable	\$0	\$1,425,000	\$0	\$0
Prepaid Expense	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Assets	\$1,086,459	\$1,425,000	\$78,780	\$176,747
LIABILITIES				
Accounts Payable	\$0	\$32,753	\$0	\$0
Loan Payable	\$0	\$398,227	\$0	\$0
Total Liabilities	\$0	\$430,980	\$0	\$0
EQUITY				
Balance Beginning of Year	\$1,032,618	\$1,001,969	\$71,602	\$187,236
Interest	\$22,194	\$0	\$826	\$2,431
Donations	\$183,216	\$0	\$610	\$0
Other Income	\$0	\$46	\$0	\$0
Transfers In	\$0	\$0	\$6,500	\$30,000
	\$1,238,028	\$1,002,015	\$79,537	\$219,667
Expenses	\$0	(\$7,995)	\$0	\$0
Grants and Disbursements	(\$20,705)	\$0	(\$758)	(\$42,920)
Transfers Out	(\$130,865)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Balance End of Year	\$1,086,459	\$994,020	\$78,780	\$176,747
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$1,086,459	\$1,425,000	\$78,780	\$176,747

SPENDING PLAN

FYE January 31, 2023



MCEC OPERATING FUND

Spending Plan for the year ending January 31, 2023

	2022-23 Budget \$	2021-22 Actual \$	2021-22 Budget \$
Revenue - Individual and Estate Donations (MCEC)	\$125,000	\$120,615	\$100,000
Revenue - Individual Donations (MC Canada)	\$25,000	\$23,607	\$0
Revenue - Church Giving	\$1,690,188	\$1,664,247	\$1,668,035
Revenue - Relational Witness Giving	\$300,000	\$297,689	\$300,000
Revenue - MCCO Interest	\$78,375	\$78,375	\$78,372
Revenue - Investment Interest	\$78,776	\$78,695	\$84,740
Government Subsidies	\$0	\$3,254	\$0
Gross Revenue	\$2,297,340	\$2,266,482	\$2,231,147
Partner Ministries			
Other Pass Through Donations	\$0	\$0	\$0
Mennonite Church Canada - Operating	\$499,274	\$500,411	\$500,410
Mennonite Church Canada - Relational Witness	\$300,000	\$297,689	\$300,000
Mennonite World Conference	\$6,962	\$6,962	\$6,962
Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
Conrad Grebel University College	\$146,462	\$146,462	\$146,462
Rockway Mennonite Collegiate	\$70,215	\$70,215	\$70,215
United Mennonite Educational Institute	\$26,510	\$26,510	\$26,510
Ontario Mennonite Music Camp	\$2,185	\$2,185	\$2,185
Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp	\$10,923	\$10,923	\$10,923
Silver Lake Mennonite Camp	\$10,923	\$10,923	\$10,923
Willowgrove Camp	\$10,923	\$10,923	\$10,923
Canadian Mennonite	\$84,021	\$84,603	\$84,656
Total Partner Ministries	\$1,208,397	\$1,207,807	\$1,210,170
Net Operating Revenue	\$1,088,942	\$1,058,675	\$1,020,977
Executive Council (Schedule 1)	\$118,764	\$102,688	\$108,158
Leadership Council (Schedule 2)	\$152,907	\$145,344	\$162,074
Mission Council (Schedule 3)	\$218,104	\$178,177	\$239,812
Congregational Resourcing (Schedule 4)	\$192,647	\$141,778	\$149,158
Operations (Schedule 5)	\$499,320	\$510,313	\$407,333
Occupancy Costs (Schedule 6)	\$111,199	\$111,241	\$109,346
Total Ministry Expenses	\$1,292,941	\$1,189,540	\$1,175,883
Surplus/(deficit) from operations	-\$203,999	-\$130,865	-\$154,906
Transfer from/(to) Faithful Steward Fund - Policy	\$163,043	\$130,865	\$154,906
Transfer from/(to) Faithful Steward Fund - Additional	\$40,956	\$0	\$0
Net Operating Surplus/Deficit	\$0	-\$0	\$0

SPENDING PLAN

FYE January 31, 2023



MCEC OPERATING FUND

Spending Plan for the year ending January 31, 2023

	2022-23 Budget \$	2021-22 Actual \$	2021-22 Budget \$
Executive Council (Schedule 1)			
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	\$0	-\$928	\$0
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$96,514	\$91,370	\$91,658
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$3,500	\$2,075	\$3,500
Staff Professional Development	\$5,000	\$1,093	\$500
Staff Professional Development Pool	\$10,000	\$6,442	\$9,250
Council & Committee Travel & Expenses	\$3,000	\$1,885	\$2,500
Special Projects	\$750	\$750	\$750
Total Executive Council	\$118,764	\$102,688	\$108,158
Leadership Council (Schedule 2)			
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	-\$7,600	-\$2,779	-\$14,250
TiM - Fees, Donations, Recoveries	-\$34,400	-\$16,087	-\$38,400
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$95,207	\$91,211	\$102,374
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$6,000	\$2,809	\$4,000
Staff Professional Development	\$500	\$465	\$500
Council & Committee Travel & Expenses	\$1,000	\$753	\$1,000
Pastor & Congregational Support	\$11,200	\$15,084	\$19,200
TiM Program Expenses	\$34,400	\$16,087	\$38,400
Education & Training	\$46,600	\$37,801	\$49,250
Total Leadership Council	\$152,907	\$145,344	\$162,074
Mission Council (Schedule 3)			
Transfer In - Mission Donations & Bequests	-\$107,699	-\$101,246	-\$117,942
Transfer In - Legacy Initiatives Fund	-\$18,785	\$0	\$0
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	-\$43,968	-\$68,443	-\$43,283
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$233,556	\$208,154	\$210,037
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$15,000	\$13,588	\$12,500
Staff Professional Development	\$1,500	\$762	\$1,000
Council & Committee Travel & Expenses	\$1,500	\$198	\$1,500
Education, promotion and outreach	\$0	\$2,573	\$5,000
Mission Associates	\$6,000	\$6,500	\$6,000
Missional leadership development	\$20,000	\$2,170	\$20,000
Church plant support	\$77,000	\$97,650	\$107,000
International Mission	\$16,000	\$5,998	\$13,000
Other Mission Initiatives	\$18,000	\$10,274	\$25,000
Total Mission Council	\$218,104	\$178,177	\$239,812

SPENDING PLAN

FYE January 31, 2023



MCEC OPERATING FUND

Spending Plan for the year ending January 31, 2023

	2022-23 Budget \$	2021-22 Actual YTD \$	2021-22 Budget \$
Congregational Resourcing (Schedule 4)			
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	-\$19,250	-\$1,757	-\$18,750
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$169,647	\$129,660	\$129,908
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$14,000	\$5,726	\$9,750
Staff Professional Development	\$2,000	\$1,735	\$1,500
Council & Committee Travel & Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0
Education, promotion and outreach	\$500	\$0	\$500
Congregation Resourcing Program Expense	\$1,250	\$1,737	\$1,250
Y/YA Program Expense	\$24,500	\$4,677	\$25,000
New Ministry Initiative Expense	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Congregational Ministries	\$192,647	\$141,778	\$149,158
Operations (Schedule 5)			
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	-\$76,000	-\$68,307	-\$83,695
Transfer in from LiF (ACG)	-\$10,000	\$0	-\$10,000
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$440,388	\$473,838	\$411,986
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$6,000	\$1,065	\$4,030
Staff Professional Development	\$2,500	\$3,148	\$2,000
Council & Committee Travel & Expenses	\$500	\$40	\$500
Office & Admin Expenses	\$23,670	\$26,857	\$16,900
IT Expenses	\$41,000	\$31,789	\$13,500
Amortization	\$1,012	\$2,686	\$1,012
Office Equipment & Furniture (Expensed)	\$3,000	\$1,012	\$0
Legal & Audit Expenses	\$31,250	\$28,000	\$22,500
Program Expenses	\$36,000	\$10,184	\$28,600
Total Operations	\$499,320	\$510,313	\$407,333
Occupancy Costs (Schedule 6)			
Rent & CAMS	\$103,199	\$103,312	\$102,846
Office & Building Maintenance	\$0	\$0	\$0
Insurance	\$8,000	\$7,928	\$6,500
Total Occupancy Costs	\$111,199	\$111,241	\$109,346

LEGACY INITIATIVES FUND

Revenue and disbursements FYE January 31, 2022



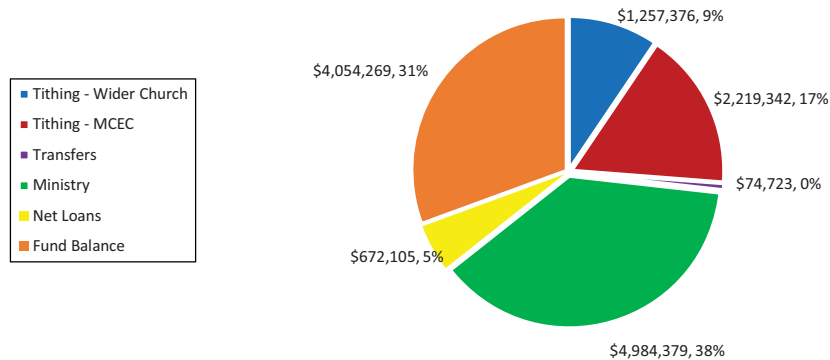
Legacy Initiatives Fund Revenue and Disbursements to Date For Period Ending January 31, 2022

	Actual FYE 31-Jan-22	Actual Prev. Years	Total to Date	Projected Totals
Revenue				
Estate Gifts	\$0	\$12,133,063	\$12,133,063	\$20,633,063
Interest Income	\$72,999	\$793,583	\$866,582	\$1,652,149
Less: Legal Costs	\$0	-\$200,983	-\$200,983	-\$341,785
Net Revenue to date	\$72,999	\$12,725,663	\$12,798,663	\$21,943,427
Disbursements				
Tithing to Wider Church	\$0	\$1,257,376	\$1,257,376	\$2,093,296
Tithing to MCEC Restricted Funds	\$0	\$2,219,342	\$2,219,342	\$2,219,342
MCEC Infrastructure		\$30,072	\$30,072	\$30,072
Transfer to Operating Fund	\$74,723	\$0	\$74,723	\$755,160
Courageous Imagination	\$81,626	\$2,599	\$84,224	\$140,000
Making Disciples	\$64,366	\$1,599,074	\$1,663,440	\$2,409,388
Forming Leaders	\$28,990	\$2,164,104	\$2,193,095	\$2,275,036
Growing Congregations	\$216,122	\$881,650	\$1,097,772	\$1,911,502
Total Disbursements	\$465,827	\$8,154,217	\$8,620,044	\$11,833,796
MCCO Loan (50 Kent)			\$398,227	\$398,227
Conrad Grebel Loan (Kitchen)			\$500,000	\$500,000
Due to Other Funds			-\$226,122	\$0
Fund Balance			\$4,054,269	\$10,211,404

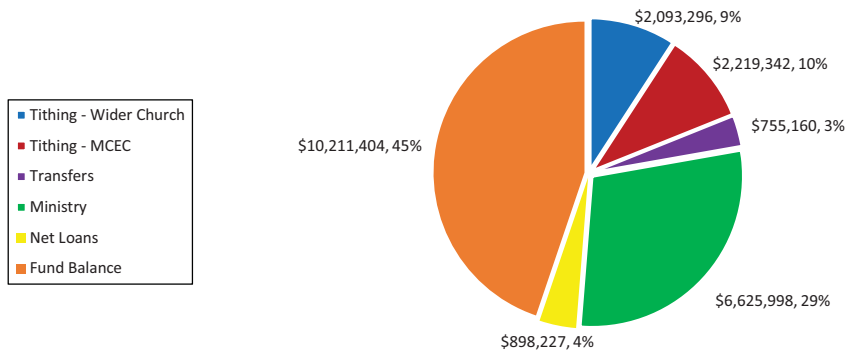
LEGACY INITIATIVES FUND

Revenue and disbursements FYE January 31, 2022

LIF Project Spending - Totals to Date



LIF Project Spending - Projected Totals



CHURCH LEADERSHIP OFFICE

Engaged with Pastors & Congregations

“The spiritual invitation for us is to trust that where we see lack, God sees opportunity and potential. God faithfully shows up and provides the leaders for God’s Church.”

- Marilyn Rudy-Froese
Church Leadership Minister



Marilyn Rudy-Froese and the Church Leadership Team conduct pastoral installations, licensings and ordinations across MCEC.

ENGAGED WITH PASTORS & CONGREGATIONS

The Church Leadership Office has been engaged in various ways with the pastors and congregations of MCEC during this past year. Guiding pastors and congregations through times of transition remains a primary focus. An increasing reality of a small pool of pastoral candidates across North America highlights the importance of nurturing a culture of call in our congregations.

This is a topic of discernment and conversation at Leadership Council and in Mennonite Church Canada meetings. The spiritual invitation for us is to trust that where we see lack, God sees opportunity and potential. God faithfully shows up and provides the leaders for God’s Church.

The ongoing pandemic has created more challenges for many contexts. There is a high level of anxiety. There are questions of governance, human resource, budget and search that continue to be important places where we build on our collective wisdom and the work that we have done together. The Church Leadership Minister and Regional Minister field many requests, questions and challenges each week. It has become increasingly clear that our strong collective faith,

shared history of learning together and careful attention to the relationships we have are needed now more than ever.

REGIONAL MINISTER

In the past year, the Leadership office particularly through the Regional Minister office has resourced 38 congregations with more involved questions and processes working with 44 different items. This is in addition to phone calls and emails around particular questions and items



Pastoral Conversations: An important place for pastors to discuss ministry through peer conversations and guided discussion.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP OFFICE

Engaged with Pastors & Congregations

for clarity. We are grateful for the opportunity to be of service.

The Regional Minister is also providing ongoing coaching and encouragement to a number of pastors as the need and opportunities present themselves in both formal and informal arrangements.

REGIONAL MINISTRY ASSOCIATES (RMA)

RMAs provide pastoral support for pastors in a variety of ways: at cluster meetings, calls, FaceTime, Zoom, emails and, when possible, in person on walks, front porches, backyards and beside beautiful lakes.

They connect pastors to resources within and beyond MCEC.

LEARNING COMMONS

Learning Commons engages pastors and leaders in their ongoing journey in ministry. It is an opportunity to learn from each other through the sharing of ideas but not limited to them. The Guide event held February or March of each year is an important opportunity to engage with the Learning Commons.

Learning Commons promotes the reflection and incorporation of the

Core Competencies according to Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church USA ministry model.

Engagement with ministry partners, for example, worked with CommonWord to curate book suggestions according to the Core Competencies, around which the website is organized.



Workshop on facing our grief and living with our anxiety for pastors, chaplains and congregational leaders with John Boopalan from Canadian Mennonite University.

TRANSITIONING INTO MINISTRY (TiM)

- 16 participants: 4 third year, 5 second year, 7 first year
- TiM Spring Equipping days online with 4 participants graduating.
- TiM Fall Equipping days November 2021 at Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp.
- 2 coaches work with the TiM cohorts

LEARNING COMMONS EVENTS

Online unless otherwise noted.

- March 2021: Carol Penner, "What is at stake for me at this moment in my ministry or leadership?"
- April 2021: Anthony Siegrist, "Speaking of God – Nurturing the Theological Capacity of our Congregations" Part 1
- April 2021: Marg van Herk-Paradis (Credence and Co.), "Healthy Boundaries in the Context of Ministry"
- September 2021: Marilyn Rudy-Froese, "What's Next?"
- October 2021: Fanosie Legesse, "Learning to Value Each Other: Intercultural Church Competency" (in-person)
- November 2021: Betty Pries, "A Focus on Discernment" Ted Talk & Group Coaching
- Pastors, Chaplains, Congregational Leaders (PCCL) Workshop: January 22: John Boopalan, "New Normal – Facing our Grief and Living with Our Anxiety"

CHURCH LEADERSHIP OFFICE

Engaged with Pastors & Congregations

Flexibility on the part of participants, coaches and presenters has contributed to the success of the past year. Much gratitude to all.

Thank you to Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp for reserving space for us and providing a safe and comfortable environment to all of us in November.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Leadership Council has two funds to provide financial support to pastors. We are grateful for resources that help us support sabbaticals, theological education and discretionary assistance toward medical, counselling and coaching costs. The following dispersals were made:

- \$45,400 to support 6 Sabbaticals (MCEC contributes 35% of the pastor's salary)
- \$12,300 to support Masters, doctoral studies and other training for 7 pastors
- \$1,830 to support coaching and counselling for 6 individuals

YOUTH MINISTRY

Through the Interim Coordinator of Youth Events, resourcing was provided for junior and senior youth, youth pastors, youth workers and Sunday School teachers:

- 10 monthly zoom meetings with youth pastors and workers (2-7 people attending) - first Tuesday of every month except July & August
- May 16, 2021: A live zoom youth event (Jr and Senior) on the theme of Courageous Imagination (40+ youth attending)
- November 7, 14 & 21, 2021: a 3-week live zoom Sunday school series on the theme of Creative Faith (20-25 people total over the 3 weeks)
- Sunday School sessions are being edited into shorter clips to be available as curriculum for Sunday school teachers.



Pastors Jim and Jonathan paired in a mentoring relationship in the Transitioning into Ministry program.



MCEC, through the church leadership office, supports Masters, doctoral studies and other training for pastors.
Photo by Peter Ringenberg, Anabaptist World



Youth active online throughout the pandemic:
Zoom Courageous Imagination youth event, live
Zoom Sunday school series on Creative Faith.

MISSION OFFICE

New & Renewed Expressions of Church

“The church on mission can take many forms. MCEC is creating the space for new and renewed expression of the church to emerge.”

- Norm Dyck
Mission Minister

The Mission Office has a broad mandate to assist and encourage new congregations to obtain official membership in MCEC and Mennonite Church Canada, resource congregations in mission, nurture and support international ministry connections between congregations and international partners and resource intercultural development. Your continued support of MCEC makes these ministries possible.



Norm Dyck and the Mission Ministry Team foster and nurture relationships with MCEC's newest congregations.

CHURCH PLANTING / CHURCH ADOPTION

In recent years, MCEC has experienced a multiplication in relationships with new and exploring church plants. A decade ago, the Mission Minister would spend considerable time searching out potential relationships. Today, we are regularly approached with enquiries about the process of becoming a part of the MCEC family of congregations. New congregations are coming to MCEC because they resonate with Anabaptist values and faith practices. Those who have the opportunity to read the Confession of Faith in their own language feel an even stronger bond to this faith community. These congregations bring their

evangelistic passion, vibrant (often charismatic) worship, commitment to community and a deep desire to follow Jesus into their life with MCEC.

In 2022, MCEC will welcome seven Provisional Churches. A 'Provisional Church' in MCEC is a body of believers who have decided to join in fellowship in order to implement more visibly their obedience to Christ and participation in the Kingdom of God.

The Mission Office is currently in active relationship with more than 40 churches and exploring church plants:

- 10 are in Quebec, encouraged by the work of Michel Monette, Mission Catalyzer
- 16 are already Provisional members within MCEC

In April 2021, 40 screens representing nearly 50 participants joined in an online workshop on Courageous Self-Care.

**Youth in worship
at Centre Béthésda
Mennonite de
Quebec, a new
MCEC Provisional
Congregation.**



MISSION OFFICE

New & Renewed Expressions of Church

RESOURCING CONGREGATIONS IN MISSION

Every neighbourhood deserves a Jesus centered, disciple-making, peace presence. Since 2019, the Mission office has worked to develop the INNOVATE Network (www.innovatebethechange.ca) as a vehicle to provide resourcing around missional discipleship (previously called ReLearning Community which began in 2015). To date nearly 40 congregations have participated in one of several training opportunities available through INNOVATE.

In 2021:

- 3 congregations participated in the ReLearning Community Cohort (<https://innovatebethechange.ca/training/relearning-community>)
- 8 congregations participated in a Community of Practice Cohort (<https://innovatebethechange.ca/training/community-of-practice>)

In addition to providing resourcing through INNOVATE, the Mission office has provided grants for congregations to engage in other missional resourcing opportunities such as The Missional Network and Forge Canada.



Our goal is to create a network of congregations and teams who are seeking to make a kingdom impact across the whole spectrum of discipleship, leadership, community, mission and movement.

INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY

For many years, MCEC has partnered together with our congregations who have felt called to ministry in their countries of origin. This has led to relationship connections in Laos, Myanmar, Ethiopia, the Caribbean, as well as relationships in countries with historic ministry connections through Mennonite Church Canada Witness. In the past couple of years, MCEC has worked to develop a connection between Mennonite Church Canada International Witness and our existing international ministry relationships. While the pandemic has hindered our ability to connect with international partners, these ministry connections remain a vital link in our growth and development as a global church.



Mennonite Church Canada Witness workers

Mennonite Church Canada International Witness has active ministry partnerships in 17 countries and four active Witness Worker couples, all of whom have strong relationship connections with MCEC congregations:

- Werner & Joanne De Jong, Ethiopia
- Dann & Joji Pantoja, Philippines
- Bock Ki Kim & Sook Kyoung Park, South Korea
- Tom & Christine Poovong, Thailand/Laos

Each of these worker couples has an active Witness Support Network with participation from and networking with MCEC congregations. If your congregation would like to be part of the Witness Support Network, contact Norm Dyck (ndyck@mcec.ca)

MISSION OFFICE

New & Renewed Expressions of Church



Semen Meserete Kristos Church in worship in 2022: the first church planted in Ethiopia by Mennonite workers.



Worship in Myanmar.



Norm and Som Phanpha celebrate the translation of the book *Anabaptist Essentials* into Lao.

Thanks be to God!

INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY

MCEC carries primary relationship responsibility for the ministry connection with Meserete Kristos Church and its Seminary. A network of MCEC constituents have been supporting the development of a world class College and Seminary in Ethiopia for more than 15 years.

Direct ministry in Myanmar has been on hold since early 2020 due to the pandemic and subsequent military takeover of the government. On behalf of Mennonite Church Canada, MCEC maintains ongoing relationship connection with:

- Myanmar Mission International – a church planting and leadership development organization supported by the global Chin diaspora
- Bible Missionary Church – an MWC member denomination

By the time we gather for Annual Church Gathering, we anticipate having printed copies of *Anabaptist Essentials*, written by Palmer Becker, in Lao. This has been a labour of love by members of Lao Mennonite Fellowship of Canada, members of MCEC. This translation of *Anabaptist Essentials* will introduce many to faith in the way of Jesus.

INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCY

“We haven’t arrived, but we’ve begun.” Fanosie Legesse, MCEC Intercultural Mission Minister, reminds us regularly that becoming intercultural is a journey of relationship – it will take time, but we have begun the journey.

The original vision of the Intercultural Mission Minister role was to focus specifically on new Canadian, refugee and immigrant churches in their missional development in a Canadian context. With the intercultural expertise Fanosie has brought to the role, many MCEC congregations have engaged in conversation and study on what it means to be an Intercultural Church.

- In 2021, ten congregations directly resourced in their conversations and questions around Intercultural Church.
- The 2021 Pastor, Chaplain, Congregational Leaders event focused on Intercultural Church, resourced by then Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary professor Safwat Marzouk and Fanosie Legesse.
- The 2021 Annual Church Gathering also included a significant training component with Pablo Kim exploring Intercultural Church through teaching participants how to make Kimchi.
- One regional workshop, hosted through the Learning Commons, took place in the fall with plans for regional resourcing sessions in the coming year(s).



Fanosie Legesse leading an in-person Learning Commons workshop on Intercultural Church Competency for pastors and church leaders.

ECO-MINISTRY

The church on mission can take many forms.

As we launch into 2022, MCEC is excited to welcome Wendy Janzen in a new 0.25FTE role of Eco-Minister. Wendy brings considerable expertise in resourcing forest church and developing resources for faith based conversations and action around creation care.

A joint appointment of both the MCEC Leadership and Mission offices, Wendy's leadership is a great addition to the staff team in our mandate to resource the congregations of MCEC.



MCEC welcomed Wendy Janzen as MCEC's Eco-Minister.

THANK YOU

Through your ongoing support, MCEC is creating the space for new and renewed expressions of the church to emerge. Thank you!

PASTORAL MINISTRY TRANSITIONS

February 1, 2021 - January 31, 2022

Ordained

Danielle Raimbault	Preston Mennonite Church and Wanner Mennonite Church	Minister
Liz Brasier	Hagerman Mennonite Church	Chaplain
Mike Williamson	Leamington United Mennonite Church	Minister
Stephen Reist	Mississauga Mennonite Fellowship	Minister
Sarah Johnson	Toronto United Mennonite Church	Minster

Licensed Toward Ordination

Anthony Yang	Danforth Mennonite Church	Minister
Donna Kerfoot ◇	Zion Mennonite Fellowship	Minister
Janet Bauman ◇	St. Jacobs Mennonite Church	Minister
Jessie Yum	Danforth Mennonite Church	Minister
Judith McCartney	SoulHouse	Minister
Kim Penner ◇	Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church	Minister
KyongJung Kim ◇	Preston Mennonite Church Wanner Mennonite Church	Minister
Zac Klassen ◇	Bloomingtondale Mennonite Church	Minister

Licensed For Specific Ministry

Jan Carrie Steven	Grace Mennonite Church	Chaplain
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Credential Expired

Brent Charette	Mennonite Church Eastern Canada	Conclusion
Tim Reimer	Danforth Mennonite Church	Retirement

Credential Transferred

Carrie Martens	Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church	Credentials transferred to Mennonite Church Manitoba
Len Rempel	St. Agatha Mennonite Church	Credentials transferred to Mennonite Church Saskatchewan
Nick Schuurman	St. Catharines United Mennonite Church	Credentials transferred to Mennonite Church British Columbia

Placements

Craig Stephen	West Hills Mennonite Fellowship	Interim Minister
Dave Rogalsky	Community Mennonite Fellowship	Interim Minister
Dawne Driedger	Preston Mennonite Church and Wanner Mennonite Church	Interim Minister
Donna Kerfoot ◇	Zion Mennonite Fellowship	Minister
Glenda Ribey	Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church	Minister
Janet Bauman ◇	St. Jacobs Mennonite Church	Minister
Jonathan Seiling	Bethany Mennonite Church	Interim Youth Worker
Ken Driedger	Preston Mennonite Church and Wanner Mennonite Church	Interim Minister
Kim Penner ◇	Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church	Minister
Lloyd Oakey	East Zorra Mennonite Church	Interim Associate Minister
Myrna Miller Dyck	Erb Street Mennonite Church	Interim Minister
Nancy Mann	St. Agatha Mennonite Church	Minister
Stephen Reist	Danforth Mennonite Church	Interim Minister
Wendy Janzen	Mennonite Church Eastern Canada	Regional Ministry Associate
Zac Klassen ◇	Mennonite Church Eastern Canada Bloomingtondale Mennonite Church	Eco-Minister Minister

◇ Participants in the Transitioning into Ministry (TiM) Program

PASTORAL MINISTRY TRANSITIONS

February 1, 2021 - January 31, 2022

Concluding Assignments

Alicia Good	North Leamington United Mennonite Church	Minister
Bev Suderman-Gladwell	Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church	Interim Minister
Brent Charette	Mennonite Church Eastern Canada	Minister
Craig Frere	Community Mennonite Fellowship	Minister
Dave Roglasky	Bloomingtondale Mennonite Church	Interim Minister
Len Rempel	St. Agatha Mennonite Church	Minister
Lloyd Oakey	Zion Mennonite Fellowship	Interim Minister
Max Kennel	Steinmann Mennonite Church	Interim Minister
Nick Schuurman	St. Catharines United Mennonite Church	Minister
Rebecca Penner	Bethany Mennonite Church	Youth Minister
Ronald Au	Toronto Chinese Mennonite Church	Associate Minister
Stephen Reist	Mississauga Mennonite Fellowship	Minister
Tanya Dyck Steinmann	East Zorra Mennonite Church	Associate Minister

Pastoral Retirements

Art Sheil	Nairn Mennonite Church	Minister
Ed Janzen	Conrad Grebel University College	Chaplain
Nancy Brubaker	First Mennonite Church	Minister
Tim Reimer	Danforth Mennonite Church	Minister

Deaths

Charles Byer	Retired Minister (Erie View)	December 6, 2021
Doris Gascho	Retired Minister (Nairn, Shantz, Mennonite Conference of Eastern Canada)	March 1, 2021
Doris Weber	Retired Minister (Western Ontario Conference, Brantford, Danforth, Listowel, Avon, Valleyview, Waterloo North, St. Mary's Hospital)	September 9, 2021
Jake Roes	Retired Minister (Maple View, Glen Allan, Erie View)	March 2, 2021
Robert Witmer	Retired Minister (Mennonite Board of Missions, Eglise Evangelique Mennonite)	December 2, 2021
Sherri Martin-Carman	Minister and Chaplain (Bloomingtondale, Wanner, Tavistock, Nithview Mennonite Homes, Trinity Village Care Centre)	October 30, 2021

Ordination Milestones

65 years

Victor Dorsch

55 years

Gerald Good
J Laurence Martin
Leonard Epp
Palmer Backer
Reynold Kipfer

50 years

Darrell Jantzi
Lester Kehl

40 years

Fred Lichti
Paul Dyck

25 years

Dave Tiessen
Ed Janzen
Glyn Jones
Louise Wideman
Susan Allison-Jones

10 years

Lisa Carr-Pries
Renate Dau Klaassen

PASTOR INTRODUCTIONS

February 1, 2021 - January 31, 2022



NEW OR RETURNING PASTORS

Glenda Ribey, Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11). During this past two years of Covid-19, continued isolation and the inability to gather with family, friends and church I have wondered once or twice where God was working in our community. God was there. I just needed to take the time to look and see. There were card-writing ministries happening to people without technology. There were soup ministries for people who were having a hard week. God brought groups of people together through Zoom and other platforms to feel connected and provide a sense of community. I am grateful that God brought me to Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church and I look forward to God's great work in this community.



Craig Stephens, West Hills Mennonite Fellowship

Seeing the dedication to prayer at West Hills has ministered to me. People are able to express how they cling to God through challenges and are given spiritual insight and direction. Their implementation of the In/Out/Up model is also very encouraging. It is a pleasure to hear how they experience God in each of these focuses.

CREDENTIALLED MINISTERS



Liz Brasier, Hagerman Mennonite Church

Ordained

Working as a chaplain in long-term care, I have experienced God in many different ways. Throughout the pandemic the call to everyone at Parkview Home has been "all hands on deck." This meant that I was asked to wear two hats: chaplain and activity aide, and gave me endless opportunities to offer spiritual care on the go, as it were. Where did I experience God this past year? During holy conversations with residents, families and staff, in countless precious moments of joy and laughter, despite our circumstances, and in the quiet, prayerful moments spent with those who are at the end of life. Offering spiritual care in these difficult times has been a privilege beyond measure.



Sarah Johnson, Toronto United Mennonite Church

Ordained

Over the past two years, the way communities gather for worship has been transformed. I see God at work in technological expertise, patient instruction, and a willingness to learn; in visual creativity, engagement in the chat box, and grace extended in the moments when things go wrong. The Spirit is with us in Zoom rooms, live streams, and video editing, connecting us to God and to one another across time and space.

PASTOR INTRODUCTIONS

February 1, 2021 - January 31, 2022



KyongJung Kim, Wanner and Preston Mennonite churches

Licensed Toward Ordination

The Spirit of God continues to shape my faith through Christ in me. I see the signs of God's activities everywhere, especially congregational journeys with Christ. God has opened a door for us to build relationships with our neighbours in the church-owned guest house. Thank God for the opportunity to start a new journey with them for healing and recovery at Wanner and Preston Mennonite churches.



Judith McCartney, SoulHouse Church

Licensed Toward Ordination

While our landscape is unknown in many ways I continue to see our God at work! Through SoulHouse Church I see and am encouraged by the love and care of our congregants. The greater community has been important as we practice our faith through prayer, hopefulness and encouragement with one another. I also see God at work through my family. We do check-ins with one another consistently making sure we reach out and keep engaged especially now during this pandemic. A healthy balance of ministry and family life has been a breathe of fresh air for my congregation and to our family. God is at work in all of life and I am incredibly grateful for His leading!



Danielle Raimbault, Wanner and Preston Mennonite churches

Ordained

As I take some time away from officially pastoring in a congregational setting to care for our newborns, I begin to notice God showing up more in our neighbourhood. Conversations with neighbours as our dogs play together turn to deeper, meaningful conversations beyond talking about the weather as isolated people strive for social contact and belonging. God calls us to care for those in our community and I've seen God as I've been cared for in communities of my neighbourhood, congregations, online and in my family and friends.



Stephen Reist, Mississauga Mennonite Fellowship

Ordained

Like footprints in the snow I don't usually recognize God's work until looking back. It's in hindsight that I see how events have led me to the place I am now. As a new interim pastor at Danforth Mennonite Church. I enjoy the privilege of hearing the stories of my congregation's individual and collective journeys where I often see examples of God's leading and provision – stories of hospitality, care and service – salt and light of the Kingdom of God.

PASTOR INTRODUCTIONS

February 1, 2021 - January 31, 2022



Jan Carrie Steven, Grace Mennonite Church

Licensed for Specific Ministry

Greetings! It is a joy and an honour to serve at Grace Mennonite Church in St. Catharines. A volunteer community chaplain, I get to experience the work of God in our congregation and in our community. At Grace I have nourishing visits with folks who may no longer be able to come to our church building; they share with me their stories of challenge and thanksgiving in our Christian faith. In our community – through a visiting service – I have made friendships with folks who experience isolation due to health challenges. My husband Laur and I are MCC enthusiasts and we serve at the Christian Benefit Shop / MCC Thrift Store. I have the honour of participating in worship services at Grace – as leader of service and as a speaker. My “motto” is God is still at work in our world. Love always!



Mike Williamson, Leamington United Mennonite Church

Ordained

I experience God at work through the people whose lives intersect my own, learning the unforced rhythms of grace together from the God who promises to meet us through prayer, story and service in the name of Jesus.



Junggyu Anthony Yang, Danforth Mennonite Church

Licensed Toward Ordination

The place where I am experiencing God is in my existence. Before the pandemic, I thought a physical place was important to share the good news because I thought an in-person meeting would create a safe space for people to feel a sense of belonging. Due to the limited condition during the pandemic, I opened workshops and circle processes online. Through online meetings, I tried to create a safe space for people to share their stories. We couldn't meet in person, but online space was also a great space to connect with each other. Since then, I have realized that who I am and who we are is more important than the place. The place where I experience God is also in me.



Hyejung Jessie Yum, Danforth Mennonite Church

Licensed Toward Ordination

I recently experienced God at work through sincere prayers with my colleagues while I stayed in Amsterdam. We had different ethnicity, nationality, gender, culture and denominational backgrounds, but we connected with one another when we prayed together. I felt that God was working through hearts and that we truly cared for one another.

PASTOR INTRODUCTIONS

February 1, 2021 to January 31, 2022



Janet Bauman, St. Jacobs Mennonite Church

Licensed Toward Ordination

I see God in small acts of kindness and caring, in volunteer efforts, often behind the scenes, and in wise, reflective leaders who listen well and nurture ongoing learning and collaboration. I see God in the desire and effort to stay connected, and in the ways we share our stories with each other for encouragement and mutual support.



Donna Kerfoot, Zion Mennonite Fellowship

Licensed Toward Ordination

At Zion Mennonite Fellowship (the Junction), we experience God's Spirit at work as we connect with our neighbours in the downtown area of Elmira. God guides us forward in helping us to discern what programs to put in place as we return to our church building for in-person worship and ministry. Our prayers are to bless those in our community with the resources they need and to share the good news of Christ!



Zac Klassen, Bloomingdale Mennonite Church

Licensed Toward Ordination

During the last several months at Bloomingdale Mennonite Church, I have been encouraged by the many and diverse ways that God has been present and at work in our congregation. God has been present in the laughter shared over a Zoom call, through prayers and words of blessing shared over the phone, through Sunday worship both in-person and online, and through the beauty of an outdoor walk. God has been at work in homes filled with children doing remote school, in childcare centers providing support to families that work outside the home, and in long-term care homes. God has been at work in restaurants, universities and in homeless shelters. In all these ways and so many more, I have been encouraged by God's presence and work in the lives of our congregation as they live as the hands and feet of Jesus in the complex realities of work and home life during this pandemic.



Kim Penner, Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church

Licensed Toward Ordination

It has been such a joy to be in ministry at Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church for a year now! I am experiencing God through the flexibility of folks at Stirling to adapt to pandemic changes. Through the many changes we have made, people understand that church is not dependent on a building. While we have lamented, we have also been grateful for the ways we have been able to connect through outdoor worship, hybrid worship, and Zoom worship. In my daily life, I am regularly reminded of God's goodness through my partner Dylan, children (Jackson age 5, Ethan age 3), two cats and spending time outdoors.

MCEC STAFF

Our team



Yeabsra Agonfer
Events and Communications Coordinator - Yeabsra provides events and communications coordination in support of events, social media and programs.
yagonfer@mcec.ca
tel. 226-476-2500 x703



seast@mcec.ca
tel. 226-476-2500 x702
Katie Goerzen Sheard
Coordinator of Youth Events
Katie connects with MCEC youth and sponsors across MCEC. She brings together youth leaders and pastors and works with partners to plan youth events.
kgoerzensheard@mcec.ca



Catherine Berube
Quebec Ministry Program Coordinator - Catherine supports MCEC's French speaking congregations and assists with French translation needs as part of the Mission Team.
cberube@mcec.ca
tel. 226-476-2500



Wendy Janzen
Eco-Minister
Wendy works with congregations to empower them in worship, ministry and witness as we connect our mission with how we care for God's creation.
wjanzen@mcec.ca
tel. 226-476-2500 x715



Kevin Derksen
Regional Ministry Associate
Kevin builds relationships with pastors within a geographical area of MCEC. He will connect you with resources and supports to enhance and enrich your ministry.
kderksen@mcec.ca
tel. 226-476-2500 x716



Kim Kabbes
INNOVATE Program Coordinator
Kim provides administrative assistance and communications oversight for the INNOVATE network. INNOVATE provides coaching and resourcing to pastoral leaders and congregations who are eager to join God on mission in their context.
info@innovatebethethechange.ca



Norm Dyck
Mission Minister
Norm works with newcomer congregations and church plants, as well as encourages congregational missional activities and disciple-making initiatives. He fosters intercultural connections across MCEC.
ndyck@mcec.ca
tel. 226-476-2500 x707



Ellen Kim
Administrative Coordinator for the Church Leadership Office
Ellen works with the church leadership minister and the church leadership team to support the needs of our pastors and congregational leaders.
ekim@mcec.ca
tel. 226-476-2500 x712



Sean East
Financial Manager
Sean oversees the day-to-day financial operations of MCEC. He works with ReLearning Community and Informed Conversations. Contact Sean with financial questions or concerns.



Fanosie Legesse
Intercultural Mission Minister
Fanosie is educator, listener, mentor and bridge-builder as he helps to foster relationships between and bring a cultural awareness to the MCEC community of congregations.
fllegesse@mcec.ca
tel. 226-476-2500 x711

MCEC STAFF

Our team



Michel Monette
Catalyzer Minister

Michel works with new leaders and congregations in Ottawa and Quebec. He preaches, teaches and coaches those who are newly connecting with MCEC.

mmonette@mcec.ca

tel. 226-476-2500 x720



Leah Reesor-Keller
Executive Minister

Leah leads the mission of MCEC, inspiring congregations, leaders and staff in following the call of Christ to be the church today and into the future.

lreesorkeller@mcec.ca

tel. 226-476-2500 x706



John Reimer
Operations Director

John leads in the development and implementation of physical, technological, communications, financial and human resources.

jreimer@mcec.ca

tel. 226-476-2500 x709



Stephen Reist
Regional Ministry Associate

Stephen builds relationships with pastors within a geographical area of MCEC. He will connect you with resources and supports to enhance and enrich your ministry.

sreist@mcec.ca

tel. 226-476-2500 x 717



Al Rempel
Regional Minister

Al works with congregations and pastors on behalf of the church leadership team. He helps congregations discover God's leading through Informed Conversations.

arempel@mcec.ca

tel. 226-476-2500 x719

Marilyn Rudy-Froese



Church Leadership Minister

Marilyn works closely with pastors and leaders and supports them in their calling, formation and placement as ministers and chaplains throughout MCEC.

mrudyfroese@mcec.ca

tel. 226-476-2500 x704



Joan Schooley
Office Administrator

Joan supports the day to day functioning of the office and provides administrative support to the Executive Minister and Operations Director. She can be found at the reception desk.

jschooley@mcec.ca

tel. 226-476-2500 x700



Cathrin van Sintern-Dick
Regional Ministry Associate
Transitioning into Ministry/
Learning Commons Coordinator

Cathrin builds relationships with pastors, coordinates the TiM program and curates the Learning Commons. She will connect you with resources and supports to enhance and enrich your ministry.

cvansinterndick@mcec.ca

tel. 226-476-2500 x718



Lisa Williams
Director of Communications

Lisa connects congregations through sharing stories of God's ministry in and through the people of MCEC and MC Canada.

lwilliams@mcec.ca

tel. 226-476-2500 x708

VOLUNTEERS

Sharing gifts and wisdom

MCEC is blessed with council members, committee members and other volunteers sharing their gifts and wisdom for the benefit of congregations.

Baergen, Rene – First Mennonite Church
Baergen, Rudy – Erb Street Mennonite Church
Bejarano, Edna – Toronto United Mennonite
Bender, Alissa – Hamilton Mennonite Church
Bender, Gladys – Steinmann Mennonite Church
Bender, Suzanne – Steinmann Mennonite Church
Boehm, Ruth – Faith Mennonite Church
Brubacher, Jonathan – Elmira Mennonite Church
Brubacher, Ray – Waterloo North Mennonite
Burkard, Barb – Bloomingdale Mennonite
Carter, Kara – Wellesley Mennonite Church
Cassels, Ben – Waterloo-Kitchener United
Chandler Burns, Steph – Erb Street Mennonite
Cheung, Donny – Toronto United Mennonite
Demosthene, Shelly - Église de Dieu Réparateur
des Brèches
Diller Harder, Mark – St. Jacobs Mennonite Church
Driedger, Dawne – Preston and Wanner Churches
Dyck-Steinmann, Tanya - MCEC Ordained Pastor
Ellison-White, Julie – Bloomingdale Mennonite
Falconer, Cate – Hagerman Mennonite Church
Fieguth, Emily – Niagara United Mennonite
Fieguth, Paul – Waterloo North Mennonite Church
Frere, Craig - MCEC Ordained Pastor
Fretz, Sara – Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church
Frey, Ardith – Waterloo North Mennonite Church
Frey, Nancy – Listowel Mennonite Church
Gingerich, Darlene – Steinmann Mennonite
Gonzalía, Felipe – First Mennonite Church
Grainger, Morgan – The Gathering Church
Hamm, Catherine – North Leamington United
Harder, Gary – Toronto United Mennonite Church
Hedrick, Tim – Waterloo North Mennonite Church
Heese, Karen – Hagerman Mennonite Church
Heimstra, Janel - INNOVATE
Helmuth, Jen – Erb Street Mennonite Church
Janzen, Peter – Niagara United Mennonite Church
Janzen, Wendy – Burning Bush Forest Church
Jongejan Harder, Charleen – North Leamington
Jongejan Harder, Kendall – North Leamington
Joseph, Andi Myriam – Familee Assemblée
Kabbes, Andrew - INNOVATE
Kehl, Roger – First Mennonite Church
Klassen, Arli – First Mennonite Church

Klassen, Elizabeth – Rockway Mennonite Church
Knarr, Gary – Mannheim Mennonite Church
Lichti, Diane – Tavistock Mennonite Church
Loepp Thiessen, Jim – Floradale Mennonite
Makinen, Cassie – Zion Mennonite Fellowship
Marr, Lucille – Mennonite Fellowship of Montreal
McCartney, Colin – SoulHouse Church
McCartney, Judith – SoulHouse Church
Metzger, Melinda – St. Jacobs Mennonite Church
Miller Dyck, Myrna – Erb Street Mennonite Church
Musselman, Karey – Rockway Mennonite Church
Neufeldt-Fast, Arnold – Community Mennonite Church
Odia, Ruth - The Gathering Church
Penner, J.D. – Toronto United Mennonite
Peters Unrau, Kevin – Hillcrest Mennonite Church
Quan, Brian – Toronto Chinese Mennonite Church
Raltong, Joseph – Chin Christian Church
Ratzlaff, Richard – Toronto United Mennonite Church
Ratzlaff, Vic – Westview Christian Fellowship
Regier, Ingried - Erb Street Mennonite Church
Regehr, Keith – First Mennonite Church
Riek, Rebecca – First Mennonite Church
Reimer, Tim – Danforth Mennonite Church
Reist, Stephen – Danforth Mennonite Church
Ringer, Carol – Danforth Mennonite Church
Rogalsky, Dave – Community Mennonite Fellowship
Roth, Andrew – Erb Street Mennonite Church
Saythavy, Visanou – Grace New Life Mennonite
Scheerer, Roy – Wellesley Mennonite Church
Sheil, Karen – Rainham Mennonite Church
Siegrist, Anthony – Ottawa Mennonite Church
Stamp, Judith – Toronto United Mennonite Church
Steckley, Jan – Hillcrest Mennonite Church
Steinmann, Michael – The Gathering Church
Steinmann, Rich – Steinmann Mennonite Church
Tiessen, Jim – Hamilton Mennonite Church
Tiessen, Robert – Toronto United Mennonite Church
Vaillancourt, Marcel - Interpreter
Vang, Chung – First Hmong Mennonite Church
Vang, Ly – First Hmong Mennonite Church
Whitfield-Ellis, Kendra – Waterloo North Mennonite
Wideman, Louise – Vineland United Mennonite
Yoder, Bruce – Listowel Mennonite Church
Yuen, Jason – Toronto Chinese Mennonite Church



Executive Minister's report

"...for I do hope..." (Romans 15:22)

It has been a difficult year.

In 2021, on the world stage, tension and trouble abounded. As Canadians, our hearts sank when we learned of the unmarked graves of hundreds of Indigenous children in Kamloops, and then at Cowessess First Nation in Saskatchewan. More discoveries followed. We experienced another summer of drought and forest fires, followed by disastrous floods clearly attributed to our changing climate. This, with along with global political uprisings, supply chain disruptions, market uncertainties...we have almost grown numb to the struggles that we hear in the daily news.

Discouragement has also been felt in many of our congregations as well. As of mid-January, many congregations across the nationwide church have returned, yet again, to worship via recorded video and livestreaming. Hopes for in-person Sunday School, kids' clubs, adult bible studies, pastoral visits and potlucks have once again been postponed.

We had envisioned that, by now, congregations and regions would be sharing together the new ways they have found to be the church, as we emerged from the pandemic. However, we continue to tune into what public health officials recommend so we can limit risk to the most vulnerable among us.

I am reminded of the Apostle Paul whose plans to visit the Christians in Rome (Romans 15:22ff) were repeatedly delayed. Then, in due time, he was able to travel and minister again. Like Paul, the delay doesn't

mean that we have stopped hoping and dreaming! I'm so thankful to those who have volunteered to be part of the Community of Spiritual Leadership and the Intercultural Church Steering Committee, new groups that will provide leadership and discernment for our nationwide community of faith in the coming years.

Our Sustainability Leadership Group (SLG) worked with students from The King's University in Edmonton who [produced a resource](#) to help our congregations take steps to become more sustainable communities.



One of the blessings of pandemic restrictions has been that Mennonite Church Canada executive has had time to clarify nationwide church governance structure and ministry priorities. We

have engaged with MC USA to update our ministerial misconduct policy and we are currently expanding the mandate of the SLG to anchor a nationwide climate-action response.

As you will read in the following reports, our program directors have also adapted their activities to continue to resource congregations across the nationwide church and to grow our engagement with our international partners and Indigenous neighbours.

Sincere and heartfelt thanks to all of you for your generous support of the nationwide church. We are so blessed to be the recipients of your financial contributions and your gifts of time, talents and abilities.



We trust that God will grow strong ministries and witness in 2022.

Submitted by
Doug Klassen

dklassen@mennonitechurch.ca

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Sharing God's healing and hope to the world



CommonWord •

Bookstore and Resource Centre

CommonWord is your bookstore and resource centre, a nationwide ministry of Mennonite Church Canada. We help connect you with Anabaptist and related materials – to buy, borrow or access online – that inspire, provoke, equip and engage.

Don't let the pandemic keep you from reading or accessing new resources. Let CommonWord help encourage your faith conversations. Peruse our carefully selected reading lists. Circulate bulk loan orders among your church members. Pick up our discounted Common Read titles. Attend our book launches (virtual and in-person). Engage children with our CommonWord Kids collection.

We especially want to serve those of you who haven't engaged with us before. Our ministry is:

- **Simple.** We are a loan library, an online forum and a retail bookstore combined in one location – commonword.ca. Visit us for a good book to borrow, a small group study to purchase or a worship resource to download, in English, or many other languages.
- **Comprehensive.** We are Mennonite Church Canada's resourcing arm and have a complete list of nationwide church resources (from pastor salary guidelines to International Witness materials) and Herald Press titles, in addition to Canadian Mennonite University and other partner materials. Visit us if you're looking for an Anabaptist podcast, Mennonite

author, or denominational publication.

Accessible. Our digital resources, including hundreds of [Together in Worship](#) (digital worship) materials, are free. Our loan items ship at no cost, both ways, anywhere in Canada. Our retail titles are competitively priced. Visit us, whether you're in New Brunswick, Vancouver Island or any place in between.

- **Unique.** There's no other Anabaptist centre quite like us. Visit us for a unique title on climate action, Indigenous-Settler relations, intercultural church or other timely topics. Or, when in Winnipeg, come for the frozen perogies or Thai curries!
- **Personal.** Our staff are knowledgeable and dedicated – and are available over the phone or by email. We value the relationships we have with many of you – and look forward to serving more pastors, parents, congregational leaders and avid readers.

We are grateful for the church and university's ongoing commitment to Christian formation. Thank you for your continued trust as we advance resources that seek to strengthen the church.

Please remain in touch by calling 1-877-846-1593 or e-mailing info@commonword.ca. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram. Subscribe to our bi-weekly *Curator* email. Embed our RSS feeds. Keep reading!



Submitted by Arlyn Friesen Epp
Director of CommonWord
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www.commonword.ca

Indigenous-Settler Relations

In 2021, Canadians were forced to reckon with genocide, the government finally affirmed Indigenous human rights in law and Indigenous land defenders – in multiple places – stood their ground to resist climate catastrophe. Through these events – both heartrending and regenerative – churches like ours could hear the call of Creator and found ways to respond.

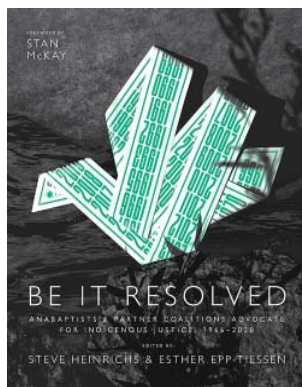
Unmarked graves

On May 27, 2021, news broke that shocked the country—[215 unmarked graves](#) found on the grounds of the Kamloops Indian Residential School. In the weeks to come, hundreds, then thousands more graves were identified in other locations across Canada. So many Indigenous children buried on schoolyards, some as young as three years old.

In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Final Report contained an [entire volume](#) on the reality of missing children and unmarked burials. Not many took notice. But now, through multiple "discoveries," a floodlight was shone on this violent piece of Canada's history – one that moved the [Canadian Historical Association](#) to declare that the Canada's treatment of Indigenous peoples warrants the use of the word "genocide."

Be it Resolved Challenge

In June, more than one hundred people joined Mennonite Church Canada's [Be it Resolved Challenge](#) a group that committed itself to: 1) remembering the commitments that Mennonites have made to Indigenous justice over the past 50 years and 2) making a personal pledge to live out specific "calls to action."



Recognition of Indigenous rights

For decades, Indigenous activists and their allies have been trying to get Canada to embrace the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in law. Mennonite Church Canada joined the effort in 2016. On June 21,

2021 – Indigenous Peoples Day – [Bill C-15](#), *An Act respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, achieved Royal Assent.

Implementation will take time, but C-15 should bring us closer to the Declaration's vision of "harmonious and cooperative relations" rooted in justice and respect.



UNDRIP supporters at CMU in 2019.

#LandBack

As Canadians wrestled with the violence of colonialism past, as government embraced the possibility of a post-colonial future, many Indigenous peoples in the present were out on their lands and waters, risking their lives to protect their territories from resource development that lacks consent. From the east coast fisheries of the Mi'kmaq to the Haudenosaunee-led "1492 Land Back Lane"; from the "Tiny House Warriors" in Secwepemc territory to the Unist'ot'en and Gidim'ten water protectors



Esther Kern (front row middle) and David Janzen (right) visited Wet'suwet'en.

in Wet'suwet'en; frontline, land back movements are growing in frequency due to the increasing threat of global warming. Mennonite Church Canada, in partnership

with regional church working groups and [Christian Peacemaker Teams](#) supported two of these resistance movements. We brought weekly meals and supplies, wrote solidarity [statements](#) and hosted awareness-raising [webinars](#). We sent teams out [to the land](#), to be with, learn from and support Indigenous land defenders in their divine vocation of protecting creation.



The work isn't easy. But it is important, necessary and often joyful. Together!

Submitted by Steve Heinrichs
Director of Indigenous-Settler Relations
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mennonitechurch.ca/indigenous

International Witness

Through prayer and online conversations, International Witness has traveled the world this year. Mennonite Church British Columbia organized a Road Trip visiting three countries in June. Witness Support Networks connected with Witness workers and local partners on regular Zoom calls. Witness workers, in live and recorded messages, spoke in churches across Canada while in their countries of service.

Highlights from 2021:

- We prayed for an end to violence and for peace to reign, together with siblings in faith [in Myanmar, Colombia](#) and Ethiopia.
- In July, IW hosted [an online conversation](#) with the Colombian Mennonite Church (IMCOL) to share our churches' responses to the discovery of unmarked graves at former Indian residential school sites in Canada and to ongoing violence against civilians in Colombia. Forming congregation-to-congregation partnerships with us is a priority for IMCOL.
- In October, we went on [a virtual tour](#) of Bethlehem Bible College with faculty and students who shared about life in Bethlehem.
- Witness workers George and Tobia Veith returned to Canada in the fall, [ending 30 years of service](#) in the greater China area. They spoke in churches from October (2021) to January (2022) sharing how they witnessed God at work.
 - Thirteen of the 37 peace and reconciliation (PAR) teams trained by Witness workers [Lakan Sumulong and Lakambini Mapayapa](#) (Dann and Joji Pantoja) in the Philippines have asked for sustainable-agriculture training with Coffee for Peace. Several Indigenous people groups in Mindanao also invited PeaceBuilders Community Inc. and Coffee for Peace to work with them on sustainable-agriculture and inclusive development training. Other PAR teams are focused on community service and peacebuilding.
- Chuncheon Community Peace Center in South Korea, founded by Witness worker Bock Ki Kim, is now financially independent and pays its trainees, who are invited to work in local schools, with the police service and other community groups. Training



George and Tobia Veith.



Bock Ki Kim (middle) trains facilitators in the restorative justice circle.

happened twice this year to increase facilitators of the restorative justice circle because of high demand.

- Worshipping groups in China are breaking off into smaller groups to avoid criticism from authorities. They are finding creative ways to share resources. This means an even bigger need for the leadership development and training Mennonite Church Canada is supporting.
- Leaders of four Mennonite Peace Houses, small house church gatherings, are mentored by Witness workers Tom and Christine Poovong in Thailand. They are part of Friends of Grace Church Association, where 43 congregations share resources for leadership development, outreach and income generation. Due to COVID-19, these leaders meet online every week. They are now developing an eight-month online training course.
- Meserete Kristos Seminary in Ethiopia has invited [Werner and Joanne De Jong \(MCA\)](#) to teach and support faculty development. After a lengthy delay due to visa issues, the De Jongs left for Ethiopia in mid-January (2022).
- Mennonite Seoul, a worship group founded by Witness workers Sook Kyoung Park and Bock Ki Kim, continues to meet online and in person when able. Sook Kyoung and Bock Ki hosted a retreat for the group during a break in COVID-19 lockdowns.



Werner and Joanne De Jong.



Thank you for your support as we continue to witness what God is doing in the world.

Submitted by Jeanette Hanson
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Mennonite Church Manitoba 2021: Year in Review

Mennonite Church Manitoba (www.mennochurch.mb.ca) is a community of 38 member congregations with almost 7,000 individual members. We gather throughout the province of Manitoba in the territories of Treaties 1, 2, 3, and 5, the homelands of diverse Indigenous peoples. We covenant together to follow Jesus and live out the call of Christ within an Anabaptist perspective. We also covenant together with our partner regional churches of MC British Columbia, MC Alberta, MC Saskatchewan, and MC Eastern Canada as Mennonite Church Canada (www.mennonitechurch.ca), to be a nationwide church that extends God's love to our neighbours locally, nationally, and globally.

Another COVID Year

2021 will be remembered as "2020 2.0." The COVID-19 pandemic has continued to ravage the globe, and this has had significant impact on our congregations and pastors as well as our collective ministry as MCM. Pastors are exhausted, programs are scaled back, budgets are tight, and congregations are left wondering who is still part of their fellowship and what their church will look like on the other side of the pandemic. The same realities are true for us as a regional church. Nevertheless, God has been at work among us! Read on for good news of the Spirit's movement within MCM.

Camps with Meaning

Our Camps with Meaning (www.campswithmeaning.org) leaders and staff have done a tremendous job navigating the public health orders to provide a scaled-back summer camp program alongside retreat and rental opportunities. In 2021 we offered seven pop-up camps (4 for youth and 3 for adults with disabilities) at our campsites and churches, and five day camps (1 week at Koinonia, 4 at Assiniboia). We had close to 250 total campers served by 51 total staff. Summer campers played, ate, sang, and learned together around the theme, "Heroes of the Faith."

Support for Pastors and Congregations

MCM staff have visited and walked alongside pastors and congregations in various ways, in person when possible, via phone or Zoom when necessary. Pastor cluster groups have continued to meet, complementing the individual support provided by staff. Staff have worked with church councils and search committees to find interim or long term pastors. Several pastors completed a credentialing process with MCM during 2021, and staff were delighted to participate in installation and ordination services virtually or in person. MCM staff also provide support for congregations in faith formation, worship, congregational care, and local mission, as well as misconduct response, conflict mediation, and resourcing for church councils.

Re-Focused Programs

The range of programs we offer as MCM was reviewed in 2021, leading to a shift in our programs and staffing. Our four primary program areas are now Leadership Ministries (overseen by Rick Neufeld), Congregational Ministries (Kathy Giesbrecht), Mission Ministries, and Camps with Meaning. Dorothy Fontaine is shifting from Director of Mission to Director of Camps with Meaning as of January 1, 2022, and we will be hiring a Director of Mission Engagement to oversee our Mission Ministries as

well as to focus on church engagement. In addition, a new Congregational Health Committee has been formed to advise and support Kathy Giesbrecht in the area of Congregational Ministries, looking at ways to increase the health and vitality of our congregations.

New Working Groups

Two new MCM working groups are being added to our MCM Palestine-Israel Network and Woven (Mennonite Women Together). The Manitoba Mennonite Coalition for Indigenous Solidarity (MMCIS) will help our congregations to collaborate regionally for learning and action in solidarity with our Indigenous neighbours, and the MCM Climate Action Working Group (MCM CAWG) will do the same for our congregations related to our response to climate change.

Our Nationwide Ministry

Just as our ministry as congregations extends beyond our communities as Mennonite Church Manitoba, so our ministry as a regional church extends beyond our province as Mennonite Church Canada. Together with our other regional churches, we provide resourcing for MC Canada congregations and others through our CommonWord resource centre and website (www.commonword.ca). We have worked together in Indigenous-Settler Relations toward living out our commitments to truth and reconciliation. We work with International Witness partners around the world in over a dozen different countries to help bring Jesus' ministry of reconciliation to life in these contexts. We are also committed to significant action nationwide in response to the climate crisis.

Moving Forward

We have two staff exits expected for 2022. Rick Neufeld will be retiring as Director of Leadership Ministries at the end of March, and David Hogue will be likewise be leaving as Site Manager at Camp Assiniboia at the end of April. We are grateful for their ministry among us and wish them well.

We are anticipating our MCM Gathering on March 5. Given the uncertainties in Manitoba related to COVID, this will once again be via Zoom. We are also anticipating our MC Canada Gathering in Edmonton from July 29 to August 1. We encourage all who are able to join us for these events.

2022 looks to be another year of challenge and change, yet with the Spirit of God working in us, among us, and through us in the world. At this point it looks to be "2020 3.0," another year of pandemic. This will continue to create challenges for us as congregations and pastors, and as a regional church. We will face those challenges as we have so far: with an abiding faith in God, with courageous hope for God's goodness to be shown among us, and with a deepening love for one another and for all, especially the most vulnerable of our world.

Michael Pahl
Executive Minister, Mennonite Church Manitoba

MENNONITE CHURCH SASKATCHEWAN

Doing together what we cannot do alone



Mennonite Church Saskatchewan 2021 Annual Report

Mennonite Church Saskatchewan (MC Sask) is a community of 23 congregations who have covenanted together to be Christ Centred & Sent. We support each other in ministry, do things together which we cannot do alone, are church together throughout the province, and connect to the larger Mennonite Church body through Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite World Conference.



At the 2021 Annual Delegate Sessions, held via Zoom on March 13, we focused on being '*Called to Hear*,' particularly from one another. We were richly blessed to hear from **Hanley, Superb**, and **Zoar** Mennonite Churches about their closures. The legacy and ministry of these communities has widely blessed the Mennonite Church over the years, and hearing their testimonies was a powerful reminder of the importance of our living into our calling as the Church to both '*hear*' and '*here*' (our ADS 2022 theme).

Congregational Transitions

This calling to hear/here was lived into further through a variety of transitions during the year.

Barb and Wilmer Froese completed their term as Interim Pastors at Tiefengrund Rosenort MC on Dec. 31, 2020. **Patrick Preheim** began serving part-time at TRMC in April. On April 4, **Gary Peters** retired as pastor of Hanley MC, and this Sunday also marked the final worship service at Hanley MC. **Harry Harder** retired from Pleasant Point MC on May 15, and Pleasant Point and Warman MC's welcomed **Len Rempel** in June, with a joint installation service held on Oct. 24. On May 31 **Andrea Enns-Gooding** completed her term as pastor at Zoar MC, which was also the final worship service for Zoar MC. Andrea began her time as pastor for Rosthern MC on July 1 and was installed on Sept. 12. On Sept. 30 **Sarah Unrau** resigned as Youth Leader of Nutana Park MC. We were also blessed to have two pastors respond to their calling to serve the wider church through ordination services: **Susanne Guenther Loewen** (Nutana Park MC, June 27), and **Emily Summach** (Langham MF, Nov. 21)

The Work of the Church

Throughout 2021, we continued to find ways to navigate in-person and online events, and search for ways to meaningfully – and safely – bring our community together and engage in the work of the Church. Online **Mega Menno** game nights became a regular way for youth to connect, and the fun continued when outdoor events at Shekinah and the Youth Farm became possible. Spending time listening to, and resourcing, pastors and congregations was an important part of this year, with pastor's gatherings and shared online services providing meaningful moments of connection. A new workshop, **Reimagine**, is now available to help congregations think about new ways to respond to the call to be the Church. In 2022 we look forward to gathering in Alberta for MC Canada gatherings '**We Declare**' and '**Amplify!**' (*youth*) to connect with our brothers and sisters once again from across MC Canada in fellowship and worship.

As we look to the year ahead, we invite your prayers as we prepare for **Kirsten Hamm-Epp** to be away on maternity leave (beginning Jan. 31, 2022), and to say farewell to **Ryan Siemens**, who is resigning his role as Executive Minister as of Jan. 31, 2022, to take on the role of Executive Director with Mennonite Central Committee Alberta. Ryan has contributed significantly to the MC Sask community, and his vision, heart for the Church, and laugh will be greatly missed. We are pleased to announce the hiring of **Josh Wallace** as Interim Executive Minister. Josh has served MC Sask as Church Engagement Minister since 2020, and we are deeply grateful for his willingness to increase his role during this time of transition. Please pray for all MC Sask staff and leadership as we navigate and prepare for these transitions.

Wishing you Christ's peace and hope,

*Ryan Siemens, Kirsten Hamm-Epp,
Josh Wallace, & Marianne Siemens (MC Sask Staff)*



Youth fun at Shekinah!



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Executive Committee Brenda Tiessen-Wiens **Moderator** Peter Sang **Vice-Moderator** Wayne Janz **Finance** Elizabeth Wall **Secretary** Tim Wiebe-Neufeld **Executive Minister**

MCA welcomes new Staff

Steven Giugovaz joined MCA as our *Church Engagement Minister*. He focuses on connecting MCA congregations, exploring missional callings and building connections with the ministries we share.



Suzanne Gross began as *North Edmonton Ministry Interim Worker*. This Christ-centred ministry focuses on relationships and draws our interfaith community together through witness, peace-building, hospitality, and dialogue.



As we stand on the shifting sands of the COVID-19 pandemic, we're challenged to examine the places we are connected and rooted, and how we express God's love in contexts of ongoing uncertainty. In 2021, MCA was filled with numerous expressions of the connections that we share with one another as a community of congregations.

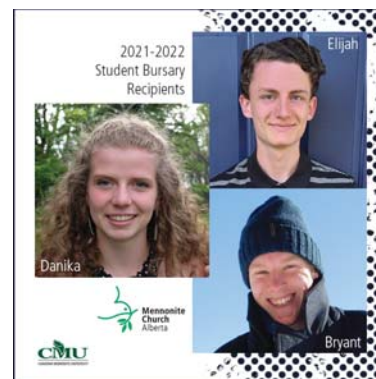
Nurturing One Another

Tim Wiebe-Neufeld (Executive Minister) provides support for pastors and congregations including walking with congregations as they navigate transitions in leadership. He engages in meetings with chairs, treasurers and administrators, and connects with congregants through speaking opportunities.

Pastors Council is a place for our leaders to dialogue, vision and encourage each other as they provide spiritual leadership during these challenging times.

Delegate session workshops, the Heritage Retreat, Faith Studies sessions and the Pastors Retreat provided opportunities to participate in discussion, discernment and direction-setting.

Three post-secondary students were provided with bursaries as they explore faith and vocation at Anabaptist/Mennonite schools. The MC Canada Sustainability Leadership Group provides leadership and guidance as congregations examine their climate impacts and engage in creation care.



Spreading our Wings

Our MCA community stretched and adjusted to staff changes in 2021. In addition to welcoming two new staff, we celebrated 10 years of ministry and retirement with **Donna Entz** (North Edmonton Ministry). **Werner & Joanne De Jong** received an invitation to ministry in Ethiopia. They join **Tom and Christine**

www.mcab.ca

January 15, 2022

Upcoming Events

Snow Camp

February 26, 27



Annual Delegate Sessions

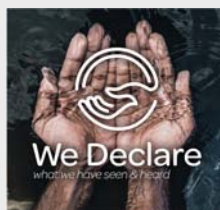
including the launch of **E3:Y3**
March 19 by zoom



Gathering 2022

We Declare: Edmonton

July 29 - August 1



Amplify: Camp Valaqua

July 31 - August 4



Poovong (Thailand) as Alberta-based workers in our team of International Witness workers who train and provide resources to church leaders. International Witness is made up of 13 country partnerships around the world.



Celebrations

We celebrated together in 2021! On March 21, our 12 congregations met together on zoom to worship God, who invites us into community. Throughout the year congregations worshipped together, apart, in person and online, building on our **E3 theme: Encountering, Embracing, Embodying Christ in Community.**



The return of summer camp elicited celebrations for people of all ages, from children, to parents, to staff and a range of volunteers.

Camp Valaqua provides a valuable space to encounter

God in nature and for future leaders to gain skills and experience.

The Congregational Leadership Committee has the privilege of exploring one of our greatest celebrations together with congregations - the call to ministry and ordination of leaders!

Faith and Faithfulness

These, and the numerous other expressions of faith and faithfulness in MCA staff and committee members, and the stories we hear from our congregations are evidence of God's goodness. They're evidence of a community that trusts one another and of people who are inspired and empowered by their faith. We don't know what curves the road ahead will hold, but we enter 2022 knowing God is faithful.

A handwritten signature in black ink.

Brenda Tiessen-Wiens, Moderator

The MENNONITE CHURCH BRITISH COLUMBIA (MCBC) Story to the Nationwide Regional Churches for 2021, Submitted by Garry Janzen, Executive Minister

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

As we reflect on this past year, it has brought many more challenges. We spoke of 2020 being a year like none other with all the uncertainties brought to us by COVID-19. With many of the ravages of climate change landing in BC, including a heat dome, atmospheric rivers, and the destructive effects of fire and flooding, we are moved to look for what might give us hope. Romans 15 reminds us of where our hope comes from, ending with the benediction in verse 13 above. May this hope that we find in Jesus sustain us and carry us as our theme in 2022.

In 2021 we affirmed a new structure for MCBC. Task Groups have grown, and others have been formed. There is much that our people have said they care about and want to act on, and the work of our task groups reflect these interests. Our task groups are too numerous to name them all here. We give thanks to our Ministry Leaders: Andrew Haak (Cultivating Anabaptist Vision), Henry Krause (Engaging God's World) and Bob Boehr (Growing Community). They do quarterly reports on the work in their ministry area. As Leadership Board members they also help with giving overall direction to MCBC.

We have said that the local congregation is the foundational unit of the church. It has been brought to our attention that we still need to figure out how our MCBC task groups connect with this commitment. It might be good for those who are in task groups to let their congregations know what they are doing, and for congregational leadership to become familiar with the task groups that their people have joined and learn about their work.

MCBC has developed an Indigenous Land Acknowledgement statement. Here it is, "We respectfully and gratefully acknowledge that we gather on the unceded, traditional, and ancestral lands of Indigenous First Nations." It is designed to be general for use anywhere in the province, brief, and adaptable to the specific Indigenous lands on which any MCBC event may be taking place.

In September I announced my plans to retire mid-2022. The exact time will be dependant on when a new Executive Minister is found. There is hope that I might have overlap with the new person for some orientation. I am in my 15th year, and I am so thankful for this rich experience.

The 2022 MCBC Annual Gathering on February 26th will be on Zoom. Video reports will be posted in advance.

This fall it became possible to meet in person again for worship services. This gave opportunity to catch up with baptisms, pastoral installations, licensing, and ordination. It was a great pleasure to be able to do these celebrations, but with the continuing uncertainties regarding COVID, preparation was challenging. We learned to do a no-touch laying on of hands.

Appreciation needs to be given to the Calling & Credentialing Task Group for the many Zoom interviews they did and other hard work they were called to do virtually this year. Also, the Intercultural Church Task Group has been meeting with our non-English pastors and others interested in MCBC congregations becoming intercultural, thanks to the work of Joon Park. This is a very positive and hopeful initiative.

As 2022 unfolds, hopefully this will be the year to move beyond COVID-19 as a pandemic. Our Nationwide work together as the Mennonite Church gives me hope. May we be filled with hope in whatever circumstances we find ourselves, and may we find our way to amazing new beginnings as we serve together in God's work.

COMMUNITY OF CONGREGATIONS

Communities of grace, joy and peace

1. Agape Fellowship
2. Avon Mennonite Church
3. Berhan Semay Church of Toronto
4. Bethany Mennonite Church
5. Bethel Ethiopian Evangelical Church
6. Bethel Mennonite Church
7. Blenheim Ecumenical House Church
8. Bloomingdale Mennonite Church
9. Breslau Mennonite Church
10. Brussels Mennonite Fellowship
11. Burning Bush Forest Church
12. Cassel Mennonite Church
13. Centre Béthésda Mennonite de Quebec
14. Chin Christian Church
15. Church of the Living Word in Ottawa
16. Community Mennonite Church, Stouffville
17. Community Mennonite Fellowship
18. Crosshill Mennonite Church
19. Danforth Mennonite Church
20. East Zorra Mennonite Church
21. Église de Dieu Réparateur des Brèches (RDB)
22. Église Mennonite Agape
23. Elmira Mennonite Church
24. Erb Street Mennonite Church
25. Erie View United Mennonite Church
26. Faith Mennonite Church
27. Famille Assemblée de la Grâce
28. First Hmong Mennonite Church
29. First Mennonite Church
30. Floradale Mennonite Church
31. Freedom Gospel Ethiopian Church
32. Goshen Mennonite Church
33. Grace Christian Church
34. Grace Lao Mennonite Church
35. Grace Mennonite Church
36. Grace New Life Mennonite Church
37. Hagerman Mennonite Church
38. Hamilton Mennonite Church
39. Hanover Mennonite Church
40. Harrow Mennonite Church
41. Hawkesville Mennonite Church
42. Hillcrest Mennonite Church
43. Hiyaw Amalak Evangelical Church
44. Hochma
45. Hunta Mennonite Church
46. Kitchener Emmanuel Church
47. KW House Church
48. Lao Canadian Evangelical Mennonite Church
49. Lao Christian Fellowship
50. Leamington United Mennonite Church
51. Listowel Mennonite Church
52. Ma Destinée
53. Mannheim Mennonite Church
54. Markham Chinese Mennonite Church
55. Markham Christian Worship Centre
56. McArthurs Mills Christian Fellowship
57. MDM Joliette
58. Medahnialem Ethiopian Evangelical Church
59. Meheret Evangelical Church
60. Mennonite Fellowship of Montreal
61. Mississauga Mennonite Fellowship
62. Nairn Mennonite Church
63. Niagara United Mennonite Church
64. Nith Valley Mennonite Church
65. North Leamington United Mennonite Church
66. Open Table
67. Oromo Evangelical Church of Ottawa
68. Ottawa Mennonite Church
69. Petitcodiac Mennonite Church
70. Pioneer Park Christian Fellowship
71. Poole Mennonite Church
72. Preston Mennonite Church
73. Rainham Mennonite Church
74. Refuge de Paix
75. Rockway Mennonite Church
76. Rouge Valley Mennonite Church
77. Shalom Worship and Healing Centre
78. Shantz Mennonite Church
79. SoulHouse Church - Connect City
80. St. Agatha Mennonite Church
81. St. Catharines United Mennonite Church
82. St. Jacobs Mennonite Church
83. Steinmann Mennonite Church
84. Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church
85. Tavistock Mennonite Church
86. The First Mennonite Church
87. The Gathering Church
88. The Meeting Place
89. Toronto Chinese Mennonite Church
90. Toronto Mennonite New Life Church
91. Toronto United Mennonite Church
92. Tree of Life/Arbre de Vie
93. Valleyview Mennonite Church
94. Vineland United Mennonite Church
95. Wanner Mennonite Church
96. Warden Underground - Connect City
97. Waterloo North Mennonite Church
98. Waterloo-Kitchener United Mennonite Church
99. Waters Mennonite Church
100. Wellesley Mennonite Church
101. West Hills Mennonite Fellowship
102. Westview Christian Fellowship
103. Wideman Mennonite Church
104. Wilmot Mennonite Church
105. Windsor Mennonite Fellowship
106. Zion Mennonite Fellowship



Thank You

Beyond tomorrow

Mennonite Church Eastern Canada is grateful to individuals and families who choose to support our shared ministry through an estate gift. Estates are made up of assets from years of hard work and careful management. MCEC greatly values these special contributions.

Proceeds from estates help to ensure that MCEC remains healthy by stabilizing MCEC funds. These funds ensure that MCEC will have resources for mission, congregational and leadership development into the future.

Thank you for contributing to MCEC today and through your estate. Your faithful and generous giving will serve the Church beyond tomorrow.

Through planned gifts, MCEC gratefully received financial support from the following estates:

Estate of Dorothy Hallman
Estate of Clarence Heintz
Estate of Lavina Jantzi
Estate of Viola Ramer
Estate of Salome Reist
Estate of Anna Shantz

LANGUAGES OF WORSHIP

Worship in 20 languages

French
Hakha Chin
German Swahili
Kinyarwanda
Falaam Chin Tigrinya
Kirundi Hmong Tamil
Cantonese Mandarin
Thai Haitian Creole
English Mato Chin
Lao Oromo Amharic
Spanish

“What is the kingdom of God like? And to what should I compare it? It is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches.”
- Luke 13:18-21, NRSV

Upcoming MCEC Events

Register at www.mcec.ca/events



Youth Worker's Zoom Call (online)

May 3, 2022, 4 p.m.

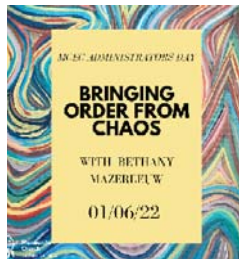
Join colleagues on a monthly zoom call to discuss highs and lows, hopes and dreams and current trends in youth ministry. This happens monthly - the first Tuesday of each month. Join the conversation!

Healthy Boundaries Workshop and Refresher (online)

Full Workshop: May 11&12 and May 18&19, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Refresher Course: May 25&26, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Ministry is about coming alongside those to whom we minister in the messiness of life and it can be challenging to define and set boundaries. Yet, to do so is critical for healthy relationships.



Administrators Day (online)

June 1, 2022, 12 - 3:30 p.m.

Do you ever get overwhelmed by all the e-mails you have to get through? Or maybe you find it difficult to manage the mental and emotional burdens that come with certain tasks? Join administrative colleagues across the country and Bethany Mazereeuw from Symplicated Inc., as we discuss Bringing Order Out Of Chaos.

Youth Worker's Zoom Call (online)

June 7, 2022, 4 p.m.

Join colleagues on a monthly zoom call to discuss highs and lows, hopes and dreams and current trends in youth ministry. This happens monthly - the first Tuesday of each month. Join the conversation!



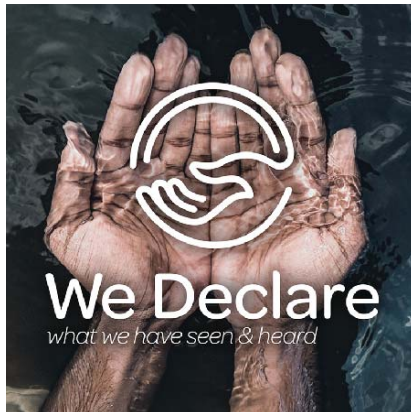
Pastoral Retreat (in-person)

June 9, 2022

A day set aside to be re-energized by the Spirit that led us and the community which surrounds. Join us for worship and fellowship! Pastors and chaplains are invited to gather at Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp for a day just for you!

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

See you in Edmonton in July 2022!



Gathering 2022
Edmonton, Alberta
Friday, July 29, to Monday, August 1
Location: Holiday Inn South Edmonton

We declare to you...what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life 1 John 1:1.

Four days of worship, teaching, networking and hearing the stories of our nationwide community of faith. Guest speakers: John Boopalan, Cheryl Bear, Kara Carter.

Find more information and register at <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/gathering2022>.

Study Guide Available

Mennonite Church Canada has published a study guide in preparation for Gathering 2022. The guide is centered around the Gathering 2022 theme, *We Declare: what we have seen and heard*, and explores what it means to share the good news in today's context. It includes six sessions on being a missional church, when the good news becomes bad news, biblical perspectives and bearing witness in a secular age.



Download at CommonWord: <https://www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/82/24191>



Amplify!
Youth Gathering 2022
giving voice to what we've seen & heard

Amplify! Youth Gathering 2022
Camp Valaqua, Alberta
Sunday, July 31, to Thursday, August 4

Amplify!
Turn up the sound and turn down the noise!

Gather among the tall trees and stunning scenery at Camp Valaqua. Youth gatherings are a time to connect to the wider church family, recharge our spirits and spend quality time together in nature. It is our deepest hope that both youth and leaders will experience all of these things and more. For youth ages 12-18.

Find more information and register at <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/amplify>.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Serving the church together

Visit the display area at the Annual Church Gathering to connect with MCEC partners.



"What is the kingdom of God like? And to what should I compare it? It is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches."
- Luke 13:18-21, NRSV