

MC Sask Report to Regional Churches

Mennonite Church Saskatchewan (MC Sask) is a community of 27 congregations who have covenanted together to be Christ Centred and Sent. We support each other in ministry, do things together which we cannot do alone, be church together throughout the province and connect to the larger Mennonite Church body through Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite World Conference. We are a mixture of small and large congregations living in urban and rural communities; our smallest being 19 members and our largest 260. About 40 per cent of our congregations average 40 worshipers or less. We are served by 29 active pastors and two chaplains (plus two more on Maternity/Parental Leave). Of this group, 16 are female, 15 are male and 30 per cent are under the age of 40. MC Sask is blessed with this current mix of pastoral leadership who enjoy serving, supporting, and laughing together.

Throughout 2019, MC Sask continued on our three-year *Deepening* journey as we *Deepened our Walk with Each Other*. We walked with each other in a variety of ways:

- at our Annual Delegate Session with David Fitch in March;
- a worship series based on Fitch's *Faithful Presence* material, developed by several MC Sask pastors (available at mcsask.ca);
- Regional Worship Services and a workshop with the *Voices Together* hymnal committee in June;
- a Continuing Education Event focused on our *Life Together* with Tom Yoder Neufeld in October;
- and at our annual Equipping Day, in which we engaged our deepening theme.

Outside of these "formal" MC Sask gatherings, we continue to walk with each other when congregations join together for worship services, when pastors gather monthly for Pastor Peer meetings, and when we serve together on Committees and Commissions both within MC Sask and beyond.

In Fall 2019, MC Sask partnered with Canadian Mennonite University and Susanne Guenther Loewen (Co-Pastor at Nutana Park Mennonite Church) to provide a graduate level course called *Peace, Violence & The Atonement*. We are looking forward to continuing this partnership with CMU to provide another graduate level course starting January 9, 2020, called *Mission in Perspective*, led by Josh Wallace.

Looking ahead to 2020, MC Sask is excited to welcome Arli Klassen, Coordinator of Regional Representatives for Mennonite World Conference and Moderator of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, as our guest speaker at the MC Sask Annual Delegate Sessions, March 13 and 14, 2020 in Saskatoon. The 2020 ADS theme *Deepening our Walk with Each Other & The World* will conclude this year's focus and move us into *Deepening our Walk with our Neighbours*. This will be a weekend of singing, fellowship and reflection, reminding us we are connected to a worldwide body of faith through Mennonite World Conference. But even more than that, "World" has double meaning in this theme. To quote from the MC Sask *Refresh, Refocus, Renew* final report:

Deepening our Walk with our Neighbours: We are being called to turn our faces toward the world, working for wholeness (shalom), joy and reconciliation. (year 3). While our whole journey is missional in nature, we want to take time to focus our energies on how we are being called "to love our neighbours as ourselves." What does this look like practically? To what new (or old) thing is God calling us?

As 27 congregations located in 27 neighbourhoods and communities throughout Saskatchewan, we are well placed to bear witness to the grace and peace of Christ in our time.

In Christ,
Ryan Siemens



Executive Minister, Mennonite Church Saskatchewan